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OPINION METER

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of federalization will
help the CNMI?

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I N S I D E

Thank You

Former first lady Laura Bush recently thanked the Friends of the Monument for its support for the marine monument.

LOCAL...Page 19



Idol Update

Adam Lambert showed his softer side on "American Idol," earning a standing ovation for his smooth performance of "The Tracks of My Tears."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 31

'Decision to cancel Tinian ILS project inconsiderate' PAGE 3
Legislature to identify ways to restore economy. PAGE 5

Flowering plants on pathway leading to seaport stolen

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five flowering plants

called Ixora Nora Grant and around 30 bougainvillea plants were stolen from the Puerto Rico pathway leading to the

Saipan seaport, prompting those involved in Saipan beautification projects to appeal for community help in putting a stop to

landscaping vandalism.

The Port to Path landscaping and maintenance is one of the Saipan beautification projects

funded by the Tournament of Champions whose main sponsors are DFS Saipan Ltd., Lao See FLOWERING on Page 4

SAIPAN GARMENT INDUSTRY DIES WITHOUT A WHIMPER

From over \$1 billion in sales to zero

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From over \$1 billion in annual garment sales, Saipan now has virtually zero income from its once mighty industry that produced clothing for global brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Gap, Levi's, Abercrombie and Fitch, Polo Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and Liz Claiborne.

See FROM OVER on Page 4

FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET IMPACT

'Mayors' offices to be hit hardest'

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Four departments are currently preparing a list of people who will be affected by the government furloughs, and the mayors' offices will most likely see

the most number of layoffs, according to Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration.

The four departments preparing furlough and non-renewal letters are the Department of Community and Cultural Af-

fairs, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of the Governor, Fleming said yesterday. She has given the department heads until Monday to prepare the letters.

See MAYORS' on Page 4

'Public officials not immune if they willfully violate the law'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Public officials are not entitled to qualified immunity if there is a finding that they have willfully and knowingly violated the law, according to Rep. Tina Sablan.

Sablan said public officials are not covered by such immunity if they demonstrate plain incompetence in the conduct of their duties.

The lawmaker expressed her position on the immunity issue in her response to the motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka, and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos.

Sablan appeared in the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for the hearing in the de-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Rep. Tina Sablan stresses a point with assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman shortly after yesterday's hearing in the Superior Court regarding Sablan's Open Government Act lawsuit.

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Local

IF FOUND OPERATING WITHOUT TWIC CARD AFTER APRIL 15 USCG: Mariners, vessel owners 'could' face civil penalties

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At this point, the U.S. Coast Guard is still trying to educate people about the Transportation Worker Identification Credential requirement, with enforcement only as a last resort.

However, those found not in compliance with the TWIC requirement "could" face possible civil penalties.

After April 15, 2009, all mariners operating under the authority of their U.S. Coast Guard license or document are required to have a TWIC card, which

costs \$132.50.

Lt. Commander John Winter, chief of the Prevention and Compliance Department of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, yesterday said "licensed and documented mariners could face possible civil penalties and/or revocation actions against their Coast Guard licenses and documents."

"Vessel owners and operators who hire licensed and documented mariners without a TWIC card could also face possible civil penalties," Winter told *Saipan Tribune*.

In a telephone interview, Win-

ter said the U.S. Coast Guard will go through administrative procedures, which include investigation and verbal warning, rather than revoking U.S. Coast Guard license or document right away.

Facilities in the CNMI that are regulated by the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Act require personnel who work in security related duties to have a TWIC card after April 15, 2009.

A TWIC card is given only to U.S. citizens and those with federal work visas who are also holders of U.S. Coast Guard license.

Because of this, many non-

U.S. citizen boat drivers in the CNMI's marine tour businesses—mostly Filipinos and Japanese—will not be allowed to operate sea vessels after April 15. Securing federal work visa will be too costly for owners and operators of marine tours.

Commercial fishermen don't need TWIC card

Operators of commercial fishing vessels raised concern whether they too will need a TWIC card.

Winter reiterated that only mariners with U.S. Coast Guard licenses or documents are required to get a TWIC card.

"Commercial fishermen operating vessels under 200 gross tons (which is generally all) in this area are not required to have licenses; therefore, TWIC is not required," he said.

A TWIC is a common identification credential for all mariners holding Coast-Guard issued credentials, and all personnel requiring unescorted ac-

cess to secure areas of Maritime TSA-regulated facilities and vessels.

Enrollment for TWIC has begun at the TSA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan. Those who wish to apply for TWIC need to schedule an appointment with the TSA office at 1-866-347-8942 or pre-enroll online at <http://twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov>.

Woman hurt in car mishap files suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman is suing the driver of the pickup truck that hit her car in front of San Vicente Church last November.

Marjorie O. Arugay, through lawyer Eric S. Smith, sued Robert Palacios Camacho for negligence.

Arugay asked the Superior Court to order the defendant to pay her damages for pain and suffering, physical injuries, mental anguish, stress injuries, and for the loss of the use of her vehicle.

Arugay claimed that as a result of Camacho's negligence and carelessness, she suffered physical injuries and mental shock.

Police said a traffic investigator found Camacho at fault for failing to maintain his right half of the highway.

Smith stated on Nov. 10, 2008, at 7am Arugay was driving south on Highway 16 in San Vicente aboard her 1993 red Toyota Corolla. At the same time, Camacho was heading north on Highway 16 aboard a 2000 Toyota Tacoma.

Smith said Camacho lost control of the wheel of his truck, causing it to enter the southbound lane. The truck collided with Arugay's car in the southbound lane.

When a police officer arrived at the scene, Arugay's car was

seen resting on the southbound lane. Camacho's truck, now resting on the passenger side, was about 20 feet away.

A police officer observed Camacho assisting Arugay by trying to control the bleeding on her head by applying pressure with a T-shirt.

Police said Arugay suffered laceration to the head that required four stitches and abrasion to the elbow and front right knee. Camacho complained of pain in the hip and back. An ambulance transported both Arugay and Camacho to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

Camacho told the officer that when he approached the curve by the church, his truck slid. Camacho said he lost control of the wheel and his truck hit Arugay's car on the southbound lane.

Police said the road was wet and slippery at the time due to rain.

Smith asserted, among other things, that Camacho was negligent because he failed to keep a proper look out for the vehicle driven by Arugay so as to avoid colliding with the car. The lawyer added that Camacho also failed to yield the right of way.

Smith said Arugay lost the use of her car as it could not be repaired.

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'Decision to cancel Tinian ILS project inconsiderate'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A member of the Tinian Legislative Delegation yesterday described the decision to cancel the instrument landing system project as an "inconsiderate" move by Tinian lawmakers who should actually be pushing it on behalf of the Tinian tourism industry.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider said he disagrees with the decision to scrap the project, citing the reason as unjustified.

The ILS project has been in the works since 2006 but was delayed due to opposing views and funding issues. It finally got \$4 million from the Office of Insular Affairs in 2007, with the money taken from the island's wastewater project.

Hofschneider, who attended the meeting between CPA and the Tinian delegation, said he had recommended consulting the gaming commission and existing and prospective business operators before making a decision on the issue.

"As a member, I am not in support of canceling the project. I believe we've gone so far on the ILS. For me, canceling the project in its

entirety is not the best move. Why not push for at least the design work? I don't think the exclusion of the China market in the U.S. waiver program justifies scrapping the whole thing," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"I believe we should continue at least the design phase... and I am sure we can come up with the additional money to complete the project [in the future]," he added.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola earlier said they decided to stop the ILS project as a result of the exclusion of the China market from the U.S. visa waiver program. He said they are looking at transferring the project's funds to priority projects at the Tinian airport.

Hofschneider said he is worried that OIA may not allow the transfer or reprogramming of the funds for other purposes.

"They cannot just disregard the ILS because it already has funding which can be asked to be returned by OIA. I know the \$4 million is not enough for the whole project, but I am pretty sure we can find additional money for that project. All I ask is to at least

push through with the design phase...because it's been in the works for a long time," said Hofschneider.

Yesterday, Sen. Joseph Mendiola confirmed that a meeting between the CIP administrator, CPA, and delegation is scheduled for Monday.

"We will work it out on Monday," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mendiola confirmed Hofschneider's attendance at the meeting with CPA.

Hofschneider disclosed that the instrument landing system is among the requirements and conditions of new casino investors like Bridge Investment LLC, which will cater to mostly Chinese tourists and travelers.

"From the very start,

they've been very straightforward to say that they will not land on Tinian without the ILS," he said.

He added that the ILS project was, in fact, among the undertakings considered for funding using federal stimulus funds.

"ILS is vital in our tourism industry. We already committed over \$20 million to improve our airport, including the runway, because our goal is to make it an international airport and in order to do that, we need to have international amenities like ILS," he said.

Hofschneider, however, admitted that the existing airport on the island can accommodate direct flights and provide safe landing for aircrafts.

The lawmaker believes an ILS will improve air traffic to the island.

'ILS for pilots' school on Tinian?'

Sen. Hofschneider yesterday countered information that the project is being pushed for a planned pilots' school on Tinian—at the expense of the government.

"I am not aware of such a plan...but if there is, why not?" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He asked the delegation to consult with the gaming commission and the lone casino operator on island, Tinian Dynasty Casino & Hotel, and prospective operators before coming up with a final decision on the project.

"Let's hear what they would say first before we finally make the decision," said Hofschneider.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach the Tinian Dynasty casino, the commissioners, and Bridge Investment LLC to get some comments but calls were not returned as of press time.

ILS facilities are a highly accurate and dependable means of navigating to the runway. When using the ILS, the pilot determines aircraft position primarily by reference to instruments. The equipment, usually installed in big airports, provides the lateral and vertical guidance necessary to fly a precision approach, where glide slope information is provided.

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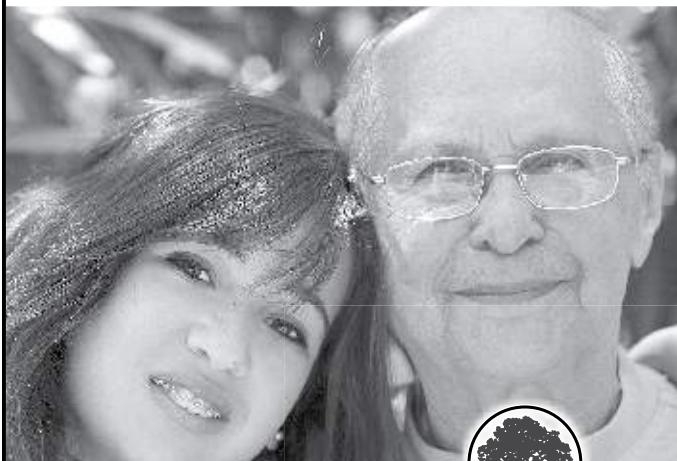
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PUBLIC*From Page 1*

fendants' motion to dismiss her Open Government Act lawsuit.

Assistant Attorney General Brad dock Huesman appeared for Fitial, Baka, and Inos.

Order

After listening to the arguments, associate judge David A. Wiseman said he will issue a ruling on whether Baka was improperly named a co-defendant in the case. Wiseman said he will also issue an order about guidelines.

The judge ordered the parties to appear on April 9 to address the main issue whether Sablan is entitled to the documents that she requested.

Sablan told the media after the hear-

ing that the court heard preliminary issues in the case that were raised by the government's motion to dismiss.

Sablan said one issue was whether or not Baka should be included as a defendant and whether or not the defendants should be held personally liable or whether or not they are entitled to qualified immunity.

Sablan said the April 9 hearing will tackle the actual merits of her petition—whether or not the records that she is seeking should be subject to an exemption of the Open Government Act.

Properly named

The lawmaker said her position is that Baka is properly named as a defendant under the rules of court and considering he is the custodian of the records she is seeking.

As acting AG, Baka is supposed to

represent the Commonwealth in all legal matters, Sablan said, including the lawsuit against federalization.

In her pleadings, Sablan said that, as the court has not yet reviewed the evidence and the merits of her petition, as well as the merits, if any, of the defendants' claimed exemption from disclosure, "it is premature to determine whether or not willful and knowing violations of the law, or plain demonstrations of incompetence, have been committed by defendants in their refusal to disclose records."

She said the OGA should be liberally construed to mean that Baka may be held responsible for violations of the Act in refusing to disclose records subject to disclosure, even if an OGA request was not made in a form specifically and directly addressed to him.

"Significantly, the Open Government Act does not explicitly require

that a public officer have a request for information specifically and directly addressed to him in order for that public officer to be held responsible for violations of the Act," Sablan said.

Improper request

Huesman argued that some of the relief requested by Sablan's petition are not available under the statute and is, therefore, improper.

Huesman asserted that Baka never received any OGA request. In the defendants' motion to dismiss, Huesman said Baka could not have violated the OGA as no request was made of him.

Huesman branded as an "improper request" Sablan's prayer to hold Fitial, Baka, and Inos personally liable for all costs awarded to her in connection with her lawsuit, in addition to any civil penalties deemed reasonable by the court.

Huesman also asserted that to the extent required, defendants are entitled to qualified immunity from the lawsuit.

He said qualified immunity is available to officials "who err in their duties so long as the mistake is one that a 'reasonable' officer could have made."

Sablan filed the lawsuit to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

She asked the court to issue an order mandating Fitial, Inos, and Baka to fulfill their obligations under CNMI law by making available the requested materials within 48 hours of the court's decision. Sablan asserted that the refusal of the defendants to disclose records identifying funding sources and contracts connected to the lawsuit that has been filed on behalf of the CNMI people is a violation of the OGA.

MAYORS'*From Page 1*

"Basically, we're targeting the upgraded positions first before we can be able to touch any other areas," she said.

The administration contends that with the recent passage of the \$156.76 million Fiscal Year 2009 budget, they have no choice but to lay off government workers in order to stay within the budget ceiling. The exact number of employees who will be affected is still unknown.

Fleming said she was able to meet with each of the government departments to determine the amount they need to reduce their budget by.

Most of the layoffs will come from the mayors' offices, she said. Within the Office of the Governor, a large number of people within the Emergency Man-

agement Office would be affected.

Earlier this week, Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas said he was looking at implementing a 60-day furlough if all other austerity measures being considered fail.

Notices of termination

Civil service employees cannot be terminated. For employees whose contracts expire April 11, they will receive a non-renewal letter, while those whose contracts last through Sept. 30 will receive a 30-day notices of termination, Fleming said.

Reduced work hours, she said, is not an option.

"Even reduced hours will be very insignificant," she said. "The only way for us is to start preparing them to be taken down, to carry all the way to Sept. 30, so we do not incur a deficit."

Gov. Benigno Fitial, who vetoed the

budget that was later overridden by the Legislature, has said politics has become involved. Many members of the Legislature say a budget ceiling was necessary, as hiring continued to occur despite declining revenue.

When asked why the administration is not pleased with the budget when the revenue projections provided by the administration were used as a guide, Fleming said it was not balanced. By not incorporating cost-cutting measures like unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays, as well as reprogramming authority for the governor, the Legislature passed an unbalanced budget, she said.

The Legislature, in the budget, did include one cost-cutting measure by reducing the employee contribution rate to the Retirement Fund from 18 to 11 percent.

The administration authored a separate piece of legislation, introduced in the House of Representatives in February,

which would implement unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays. The House has yet to vote on it and several of the scheduled austerity days have passed.

Austerity measures

Fleming said they are no longer counting on the Legislature to pass the austerity measure bill.

"We're not going to count anymore on austerity holidays. I don't think we'll ever get through to them," she said, although, she added, the administration will ask once again for the cost-cutting measures when they submit the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal.

Some lawmakers have said a gradual reduction in the government workforce could have prevented a mass layoff because the private sector could have absorbed the numbers, something Fitial disagrees with.

"I think it's very presumptuous for

anyone to think the private sector has a lot of vacancies," he said. "As a matter of fact, talking to the private sector they're telling me they also have employees they want to get rid of because business is not good."

And, Fleming said, those businesses not laying off people are renewing the contracts of nonresident workers.

"With the layoffs, it's going to be really hard for a lot of our people to find jobs," she added.

Will the impending implementation of federalization on June 1, which will extend U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI, including employment, have any affect on job availability in the private sector?

No, Fitial said, because "it will be delayed," he said of the start date. The governor has asked the Department of Homeland Security for a 180-day extension.

FROM OVER*From Page 1*

This month, not a single penny in garment sales was recorded, and government collection from user's fee was zero.

The last time the CNMI government collected a monthly user's fee was in February 2009—only \$746.13, government data obtained yesterday by *Saipan Tribune* shows.

This is an incredible drop compared to as much as \$3 million a month in user's fee collection in previous years before garment factories started closing one after the other in January 2005 when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade expired, eliminating quotas on textile exports to the United States. The GATT had regulated all global trade in textiles and apparel since 1974.

From having 34 garment factories producing "Made in the USA" clothing, Saipan now only has dilapidated buildings that once housed garment factories from San Antonio to San Vi-

cente, Lower Base and Tanapag.

Retail stores, other commercial buildings, housing complexes and apartments near former garment factories are also now eerily vacant.

The last monthly collection brings to only \$476,799.33 the government's user's fee collection in the first five months of FY 2009 or from October to February, when the last factory was still operating, compared to almost \$40 million annually in previous years.

Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs, said 10 years ago, the CNMI collected nearly \$40 million in annual user's fee, and another \$40 million in related economic contributions.

There were also approximately 25,000 total jobs in the CNMI working in garment factories, service companies, and government because of the garment industry.

Most of the foreign workers employed by the garment industry have gone back to Thailand, China, and the Philippines.

"Now, it's just a part of the history

of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," Pierce told *Saipan Tribune*.

User's fee is paid by businesses on locally manufactured and finished products, mainly garments, shipped out of the CNMI.

Between FYs 1998 and 2008, annual user's fee collection ranged from \$5.38 million to \$39.26 million.

Without the garment industry, the CNMI's once double-engine economy now relies solely on tourism which continues to see a decrease due to fewer flights, fewer tourists and the global economic turmoil.

Zero sales

Garment sales stood at only \$13 million in FY 2009. This included only the first five months of the fiscal year, or from October to February when the last garment factory was still operating.

This is a small fraction of the annual garment sales of \$146 million in FY 2008, \$362 million in FY 2007, \$531 million in FY 2006, and \$705 million in FY 2005.

Between FYs 2001 and 2004, the annual garment sales ranged from \$724 million to \$964 million.

During its heyday, Saipan's garment industry posted annual sales of over \$1 billion.

In FY 1998, sales stood at \$1.02 billion, followed by \$1.06 billion in FY 1999, and \$1.04 billion in FY 2000.

Toxic mix

The CNMI's crumbling economy is exacerbated by uncertainties associated with the start of the transition to federal immigration by June 1 unless extended, and another 50-cent increase in minimum wage by May when employers are already having difficulty paying their workers and staying in business.

From the ultimate globalization success story, Saipan now faces one of the fastest economic collapses in the history of America and the world because of the demise of the garment industry.

"What's happening on Saipan is an extreme compressed version of what's happening elsewhere in the US and the world; like a lab test of what globaliza-

tion does for good and ill," American journalist Adam Yamaguchi said in a documentary on Current TV, a cable network founded by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The documentary features the birth and death of Saipan's garment industry which fueled the CNMI's economic boom, along with tourism, which is expected to get worse due to the global economic crunch and U.S. restrictions on emerging markets such as China and Russia come June 1.

The CNMI used to be an attractive place for garment manufacturers because of its exemption from such quotas and tariffs on goods shipped to the U.S.

But when the trade quota was lifted in January 2005, factories on Saipan started moving to China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Cambodia where the minimum wage is way below the CNMI's \$4.05 an hour rate. Another round of 50-cent increase in minimum wage is set for May and every year thereafter until it reaches the U.S. federal level of \$7.25 an hour as required by law.

ects, including the median in front of Hopwood Junior High School in San Antonio and across the road from Saipan World Resort in Susupe, as well as replacing and maintenance of trees on the median in front of Microl Corp.

"We're also looking at the Garapan area, especially the Paseo de Marianas and the Japanese Cultural Center," he said.

In November last year, TOC donated \$13,000 to landscape three medians on Saipan, as well as to do the monthly landscape maintenance on the Port to Path Walkway.

FLOWERING*From Page 1*

Lao Bay Golf Resort, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"It's very unfortunate that it happened. We're upset that it happened, and we hope whoever took them won't do it again," Ben Babauta, chairman of the Tournament of Champions and assistant general manager of DFS Saipan Ltd., told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Babauta, who is also president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, said TOC will

be replacing the stolen plants.

"It is important for us to replace them. As you know we have been seeing visitors from military ships, cruise ships, the annual Japanese ships, other tourists and the community in general, and we want them to be able to see—from the moment they step out of the seaport—that Saipan is beautiful," said Babauta.

Maintenance crew from Tropical Gardens, the contractor for the Port to Path landscaping and maintenance, discovered the missing 25 Ixora Nora Grant plans on Wednesday at 9am

when they were about to do their regular ground maintenance.

The incident was reported immediately to the Department of Public Safety.

Francisco LG. Aldan, president of Tropical Gardens, said the cost of replacing the 25 Ixora Nora Grant plants is \$350, which includes the plant materials and installation.

Aldan said upon closer inspection by Tropical Gardens crew, around 30 bougainvillea plants on the entranceway were also missing.

The cost of replacing the bougainvil-

lea plants, including installation, is also \$350, he said.

"We need to put a stop to this. We ask the community's help. If they see someone stealing the plants, we hope they list down the plate number of the car and report to the police right away. These are bad times and we have to make an effort to beautify our islands. We are competing with Guam, the Philippines and other places in attracting tourists," Aldan said in a telephone interview.

Babauta said TOC will continue its landscaping and beautification proj-

Candido Castro files for bankruptcy

Land surveyor Candido Igibarz Castro filed yesterday a bankruptcy petition in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Under a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, Castro estimated \$0 to \$50,000 assets, but claimed \$1 million to \$10 million in liabilities.

Castro listed at least nine creditors: Bank of Hawaii, Commonwealth Development Authority, Division of Revenue and Tax, attorney F. Matthew Smith, Isla Financial Services, Mid-Pac Micronesia, Pacific Lawyers, attorney Robert O'Connor, and SaipanCell Communications.

Under Bankruptcy Chapter 7, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his creditors to the extent possible and to free the debtor to start anew.

In April 2002, Castro was sentenced to eight months in prison and ordered to pay \$130,100 in monetary penalties for mail fraud.

Part of the penalties were \$33,333 and \$66,666 in restitution to CDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In December 2004, Mid-Pac Micronesia sued Castro over alleged non-payment of debt amounting to over \$11,000.

In October 2008, the U.S. government filed a civil lawsuit against Castro for the transfer of his lands on Tinian to his son to allegedly defraud the U.S. in its effort to collect \$179,418 in connection with the mail fraud case. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Legislature to identify ways to restore economy

Members of the Legislature will be holding a working session today to discuss legislation that could help develop industries in the CNMI.

The planning session comes a week after the pub-

Munson continues pre-trial meeting in Villagomez case

The federal court yesterday ordered to continue today, Friday, the pre-trial conference in the case against Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the pre-trial conference, which began last Thursday, March 19, shall continue today at 10:30am.

No reason was given in Munson's one-page order.

A pre-trial conference or a pre-trial hearing refers to a meeting of the parties and their lawyers to a case held before the court prior to the start of the actual courtroom proceedings.

According to law books, there are several reasons why such pre-trial conferences may be held: to expedite disposition of the case, help the court establish managerial control over the court action, and discourage wasteful pretrial activities.

The other reason for such conference is to facilitate a settlement of the case.

According to the indictment, Villagomez accepted a \$15,000 bribe from James and Joaquina Santos for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and descaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The Santos couple was also accused of bribery for offering the \$15,000 to Villagomez.

All three defendants pleaded not guilty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

lic and private sector had a similar session, and a week before the Economic Restoration Summit set for April 2 and 3.

"The idea is to take last week's meeting and bring to the Legislature [today]," Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said. "The idea is to give them, to put the ball in their court, to have them contemplate and identify ways in which legislation or regulations they develop could assist these industries

in development."

The private sector drives business, but legislation develops industries by setting regulations and offering incentives, he added.

"[Today] is a critical session. I encourage the public to attend," the official said. The session is from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

At last week's meeting, federalization, lack of flights and unreliable infrastructure were

some of the challenges the public and business community said the CNMI faces as it tries to identify new industries to fuel the economy, including call centers, aquaculture, alternative energy and educational tourism.

The information will be taken and shared at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs 2009 Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, which will be held in Honolulu on April 6 to 8. (*Kristi Eaton*)

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CPA settles dispute with Rota firm; inks five-year agreement

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority settled its dispute with Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc. for the company's nearly \$500,000 arrears to the agency and entered into a new agreement that allows the firm to pay its debt in five years.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho also disclosed the cancellation of the eviction order issued to the Rota company in February and March.

Camacho said the company, partly-owned by Rep. Victor Hocog, asked for consideration following the eviction notice that was supposed to take effect March 13.

"We were able to settle the issue and reached an agreement with the company. CPA is now

allowing the firm to continue to operate its stevedoring operation on Rota, provided they pay all arrears and balances in five years' time...and they agreed," he said.

Besides the promissory note, Camacho said RT&T also promised to keep paying its monthly lease, which will give CPA a combined payment of about \$3,000 from the company.

CPA earlier terminated the firm's lease agreement and ordered it to vacate the property by March 13 after it failed to settle over \$400,702 arrears as of November 2008.

RT&T signed the lease agreement with CPA in January 1996.

Camacho said among the considerations for the decision is the risk of losing the only stevedoring company on Rota.

"We're not sure if there is any

other party that would be able to step in, especially on a very short notice. We're convinced that CPA's decision is for the welfare of all parties," the executive director said.

Camacho disclosed that during a meeting with the company's officials, the "significant" drop in cargo volume was discussed. "We looked at all these considerations," he said.

Camacho said CPA would make sure that the new agreement is not "ignored" by the party, as what has been noted in the past when RT&T did not make any payment to the agency.

CPA, in its attempt to generate revenues and collection this fiscal year, is running after delinquent tenants and concessionaires who have been in "default" for many years.



FAREWELL LUNCHEON

Saipan Zoning Office personnel, board members, government officials and friends prepare a surprise farewell luncheon yesterday for Zoning administrator Steve Tilley, standing, fourth from right, who will be relocating to Olympia, Washington with his wife Christine, standing, third from right. Tilley has been instrumental in putting the Saipan Zoning law and regulations in place and for keeping the Zoning Office running.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DPH wins \$221K for diabetes, tobacco programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Public Health will receive a grant of \$221,128 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for diabetes and tobacco prevention programs, according to CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan yesterday.

"I want to congratulate project director Tayna Camacho and all of the people who worked put-

ting this grant together," said Sablan. "Controlling diabetes and helping people with a tobacco problem should be high on our list of public health priorities in the Northern Marianas."

Sablan also said another \$364,162 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money would be coming to the CNMI from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The money is for the new Neighborhood Stabilization Program that will help the local government to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties. Once rehabilitated, the properties can be resold. The purpose of the program is to stem the decline in house values that can occur when neighboring homes stand empty after foreclosure. (PR)

NMI moves forward with stimulus applications

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Applications for competitive stimulus grants that will go toward infrastructure projects should be completed today.

The applications will then proceed to the Office of Management and Budget where they will undergo the local vetting process, said Mike Ada, Department of Commerce Secretary. Ada is in charge of coordinating the local effort for stimulus money.

The CNMI also recently submitted the necessary materials to receive an \$18.7 million grant for renewable energy and a weatherization grant worth \$700,000. Both grants are formula grants, so they are based on formulas in the law, not on grant applications.

The renewable energy money will focus on energy efficiency, such as solar lighting. The weatherization money will go to families to make their homes more energy efficient by upgrading old air-conditioners and water heaters, insulating walls and roofs, installing thermal windows, and sealing cracks around doors and windows that waste energy.

Other areas involving the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. include power distribution projects. Most of the projects have gone through the local vetting process and will be certified by Gov. Benigno Fitial next week, Ada said.

CUC is hoping to receive the largest share of competitive stimulus money for the CNMI. The agency's projects within the three utilities—power, wa-

ter and wastewater—totals \$40 to \$50 million, CUC executive director Antonio Muna said.

Ada said the stimulus application process, which began after President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on Feb. 17, has developed overtime.

After it was reported that some errors occurred in CUC applications, it was decided the technical side would need to work closely with the grant writers to make sure everything was correct, Ada said.

"We're going to have people write grants, but we're going to have the technical people look over them. We're having them review them before we send them out to the grant writers for conciseness and all that," the commerce secretary added.

Over 120 experiments on display at GCA science fair

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 122 experiments were on display at the Grace Christian Academy campus yesterday in celebration of the school's third Science Fair.

Elementary students displayed 58 projects, while the junior high division had 34. There were about 30 from the high school division.

Leah Dalusung, science fair coordinator for elementary and high school, said the students have working on their projects since January.

Dalusung said it is their goal to develop the students' critical thinking skills by making them actualize the scientific method: identifying the problem, doing the experiment, coming up with a hypothesis, and reaching a conclusion.

The school holds the event every two years.

Yesterday's competition will have top three winners in each of the five contest categories: biology, health, chemistry, physics, and earth and science.

Entries were judged based on scientific method, scientific knowledge, presentation, thoroughness, creativity and God's creation.

Today, about 60 students will be awarded first to third honors during the school's celebration of parents and teachers' conference.

Dalusung said that compared to previous entries, students entered more interesting and challenging topics this year.

"Because they had more time for research this year, we've seen a lot of more interesting projects from our students. Our

objective is for them to be able to answer questions scientifically," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that through this activity, students were also able to develop camaraderie, unity, cooperation, and teamwork among themselves as they have to work as a group and individually.

Sixth grader Michelle Kim showed this reporter how she and her group began working on their entry, an electric buzzer. "We did a lot of research and practice for this," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that it is their objective to impress the judges during the project's actual demonstration.

Yesterday's competition was a first for Kim.

Eight graders Tim Dela Rosa, Edward Kim and Justin Cho amazed the judges with their creative entry on solar-powered desalination.

They said they wanted to build a model on how to use solar power instead of electricity to purify water on the islands. The group found that salt water can be changed into purified water in nine hours using solar power.

"This experiment will benefit the islands because it is surrounded by salt water. We can also help people save money and provide fresh water to everyone who does the experiment," the students said.

Other entries in the high school division included Pollution Air, Smart Senses, Brain Efficiency, Growth of Microorganism, Stress, Which Gender Has Better Peripheral Vision, Catching Breath, Effects of Music on Blood Pressure, Color Memory, and Snow Flake Drink.

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Feds approve \$5M for Saipan runway rehab

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will be getting \$5 million for the rehabilitation of the Francisco Ada International Airport, according to CNMI Rep. Gregorio Sablan, who relayed the good news to the CNMI yesterday.

In a statement, the lawmaker said the funding will come from the stimulus fund approved by President Barack Obama last month.

"The money will be available for rehabilitation of the runway at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport," said Sablan, adding that this is another example of how stimulus funds can create jobs

and help the CNMI build the base for a healthy economy in the future.

Sablan said the funds are being awarded by U.S. Department of Transportation.

CPA executive director Efrain Camacho had described the runway rehabilitation as the agency's top priority project this fiscal year and will cost a total of \$20 million.

"The runway rehabilitation is a ready-to-do project and we intend to use the stimulus package on this primary undertaking to avert future damages and impact," he said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said the additional funding for the stimulus money will come from the airport improvement project grants that

provide annual assistance to CPA projects.

Saipan Tribune learned that bidding for the rehabilitation project is set in June while construction is slated for August.

"We're expecting the full rehab work to be finished in less than two years which was also set as a condition of the stimulus package," Camacho said, adding that the project was bid out together with the relocation of the water catchments and the temporary conversion of the taxiway to a runway.

These components, he added, are included in the estimated \$20 million project to be funded by stimulus fund and the AIP grants for 2009.

Camacho said that also up for completion this year are

two other priority projects of CPA: the procurement of a third backup generator and the upgrade of 15-year-old public address system at the Saipan airport.

It was learned that the third generator and other components of the project will cost \$6.8 million.

Camacho also said that CPA has received the approval of FAA for the public address system upgrade and renovation work at both the international and commuter terminal buildings.

The project will cost \$4 million, according to Camacho.

"Hopefully, we can see a new PAS within the year," he said, adding construction is slated for four months.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 27, 2000

Bill revives financial aid to students

A new financial assistance scheme for local students pursuing higher education is under review in the House of Representatives again barely two years after the government cut funding for the existing program. Rep. Brigida Ichihara, chair of the Education Committee, has introduced a comprehensive measure that will set out the policy on various government-funded educational grants, including loans and aid Under House Bill 12-140, an assured funding of at least \$3 million every year and a new scholarship office administered by the Northern Marianas College will be implemented to provide financial assistance to local students attending college here and elsewhere.

Borja gears up for 2001 polls; slams Republicans

In what appeared to be the start of his political campaign, former Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja slammed the Republican Party for its failure to revive the economy, improve the quality of education and ease strains in CNMI-Federal relations. During Saturday's fundraising event of the Democratic Party, Mr. Borja asked the people to begin asking what the present administration has achieved in all these three areas. "What is their plan to solve the economy? None. In improving relations with the federal government, what did they do? None. In education, what have they done? They may have done something but perhaps, they have taken us backward rather than forward," he said. In evaluating the achievements of the Tenorio administration, he also urged the people to ask the same questions around.

March 27, 2001

59 foreign investors visit CNMI

With efforts geared toward the alleviation of the Commonwealth's economic conditions, the CNMI played host to 59 foreign investors who traveled to the islands over the weekend for a two-day trade mission. The investors were invited over by Michael Kwan, chairman of the Hong Kong Entertainment Ltd., which operates the multi-million dollar facility Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The businessmen flew over from mainland China and Hong Kong to look around for possible investment opportunities in the Northern Marianas, said Tinian Dynasty Hotel General Manager Tom Liu. Mr. Liu said the delegation of 59 Chinese businessmen received warm welcome from local officials led by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Borja.

Foreign investments dwindle in 2000

Foreign investment to the CNMI continued its downward spiral as the Department of Commerce reported only three approved applications by foreign companies wishing to do business in the Commonwealth last year. On paper, the three companies represent only a total of \$750,000 in foreign capital infusion to the Commonwealth. The foreign investment figure is far worse than the six registered in 1999 and the four approved foreign investments in 1998. Under Public Law 10-44, capital invested by foreign companies should not be less than \$150,000 in a public organization and not less than \$250,000 in a private investment. In addition to the foreign investment minimum, the Foreign Investment Office also levies a \$100,000 security deposit for alien companies setting up businesses in the Commonwealth under PL 10-44.

March 27, 2002

Country of Peace baffles legislators

Questions over the intent of the Global Country of Peace to establish a "sovereign" state within Rota has left the Legislature with conflicting opinions about the organization, including unanswered questions whether it is a religion, a cult, or a legitimate scientific group. Most lawmakers interviewed after the presentation of the organization at the House of Representatives chamber expressed concern not so much with the doctrines and practices of the group or their plans to establish projects on Rota but on the political issue of sovereignty and the group's request to be granted such. The group's leader, whom they called His Majesty King Raja Nader Raam, led about 15 members of the group to the legislative presentation, where they were asked questions by lawmakers as to the group's philosophy, intentions, and plans for Rota.

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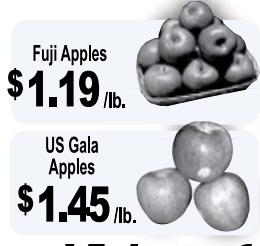
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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

You can depend on Detroit

Quick, which car brand do you suppose buyers report as being the most dependable after three years of ownership?

If you said Lexus, Toyota or Honda, your perceptions are pretty much in line with those of most American consumers, whose love affair with Asian cars is growing even as Detroit's once-mighty Big Three fight for survival. But you'd also be wrong.

Tied for first place on J.D. Power's annual survey of vehicle dependability, released last week, were Jaguar and Buick -- two brands whose reputations haven't yet caught up with their improvements in quality. As General Motors and Chrysler try to convince Washington that they're worthy of another \$22 billion in taxpayer-funded loans, their biggest challenge may not be demonstrating that they can make better cars, but that they can convince buyers that their tarnished brands are worth another look.

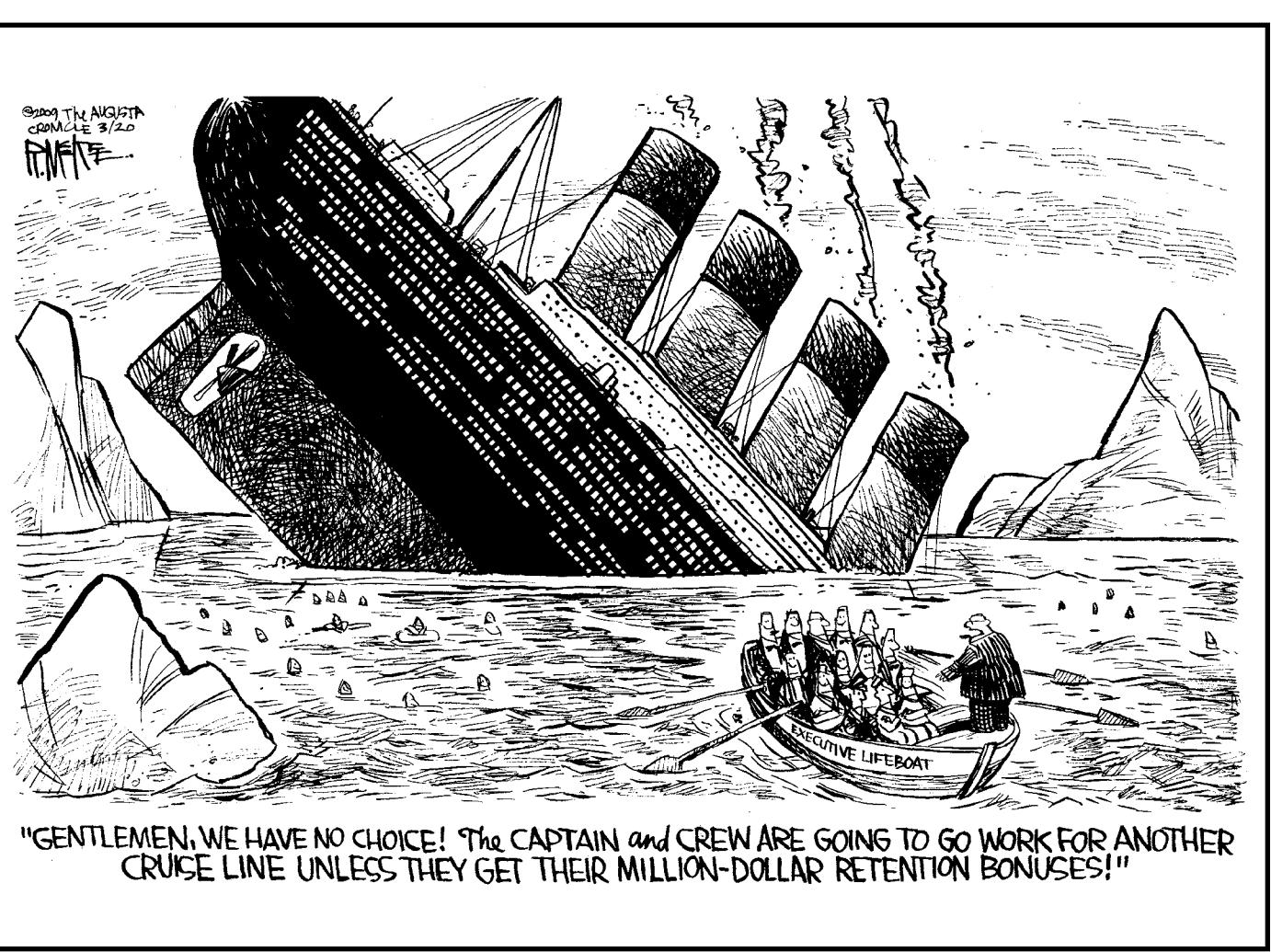
March 31 is the deadline for the two companies to prove their viability to the federal government, which has already shelled out \$13.4 billion to GM and \$4 billion to Chrysler; both companies say they need even bigger infusions of cash to avoid bankruptcy.

The reputation of American-built cars has been declining for years, and for good reasons. Because of labor costs that far exceeded those of foreign competitors and some poor strategic decisions, U.S. automakers scrimped on materials and engineering for passenger cars. The results are apparent in J.D. Power and Associates surveys; in 2008, 63 percent of U.S. car shoppers said they considered buying an Asian brand, up from 60 percent the year earlier. Worse, the surveys show that younger buyers are increasingly attracted to foreign-built cars, which bodes ill for Detroit.

Yet even if consumers don't realize it, Detroit is turning itself around. Setting aside the less-than-realistic promises to return to profitability that GM and Chrysler have been making as they argue for more bailout money, domestic automakers are already building cars that are better than their reputations. Buick, a troubled GM division whose sales have been sliding since the mid-1980s, has nonetheless been at or near the top of J.D. Power's dependability surveys for the last five years, and other American brands have recently been matching or exceeding their foreign competitors.

We still think bankruptcy is a better option than another expensive bailout for Chrysler and GM. But if the car czars in Washington decide differently, they'd better be certain that the automakers have a plan to retool their images as well as their factories.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



A family's final right

Eight years into the war on terror, military wives are aces at anticipatory grief. The possibility of loss was introduced so early in my marriage, it may as well have been an attendant at the wedding. Immediately after our brief pre-deployment ceremony at city hall, my husband made sure I had our marriage certificate safely stored, as well as his will.

While he was at war, I mentally rehearsed his funeral a hundred times, right down to the psalms and the finish on the casket fittings. And many of us Army wives, in the recesses of our closets, have stashed a black dress, just in case—if not for our own husband's funeral, then someone else's. The military preaches readiness, after all, and, we reason, if tragedy comes, we may not handle ourselves perfectly in the abyss of grief, but damn it, we'll be prepared.

In the ongoing exercise of "what if," wives and military families now have a policy change to consider.

Last month, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced the Pentagon's decision to lift the complete ban on video and photos of the return of fallen troops to domestic soil. The ban, dating to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, covers the transfer of flag-draped caskets at Delaware's Dover Air Force Base, the first U.S. stop en route to the final resting place for deceased military personnel. Now it will be up to the families of the service members killed whether to allow the media to record what happens at Dover.

Gates asserts that the decision "should be made by those most directly affected, on an individual basis, by the families of the fallen. We ought not presume to make that decision in their place." A recent poll indicated that two-thirds of Americans are in favor of the change.

Within my own circle of active-duty military and veterans' wives, the numbers are little different. In fact, they're in constant flux, as we hotly debate the issue at playgrounds, in cafes and on blogs. We go back and forth: Which side do you favor—the public's right to know or your own right to privacy? In this wide-ranging spousal social network, there are stay-at-home moms and soldiers, Ph.D.s and burlesque dancers, Bible-clutching liberals and conservatives who never darken a church doorstep. Contrary to stereotype, we don't move in Stepfordian lock step, and our opinions are as diverse as our ranks.

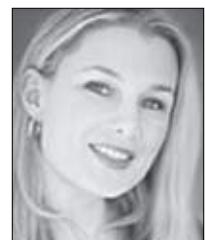
One acquaintance, favoring privacy, said that if the worst were to happen to her husband and someone wielding a camera dared to elbow in on her family's grief, she'd "open up a can of Army wife whoop-ass." The image of the modern military spouse is half-frontier wife, half-Care Bear—by turns stoically able and cooingly comforting. But when it comes to acting on behalf of our kin and the larger military family, make no mistake: Wives are warriors too.

I get where the privacy-or-else camp is coming from. Though I could not have anticipated this when I married a soldier in 2002, I have come to care for troops and their families with a ferocity that words fail to elucidate. My instinct is to wave away onlookers, to protect, to defend. The civilian world, in particular the media, is jus-

By LILY BURANA

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Burana is the author of *I Love a Man in Uniform: A Memoir of Love, War, and Other Battles*. Her husband, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Persian Gulf War, is an analyst at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York.



tifiably suspect. Though I have an occupational link to that realm, I harbor my own mistrust of the media, along with some cynicism about a public that fetishizes the warrior class yet can't wholly understand it. Times are stressful enough for military families without adding fear of exploitation.

But as much as I relate to the protective stance of "No, you can't come in," I respect those who would welcome the media, saying, in essence, "Take him, he's yours too. He is our country's son." Let these photos be his final act of service. In the name of honor and authenticity, I want the American people to see how the military respects its own, in aching ceremonial flourish, down to the last detail—caskets being carefully loaded on planes; the gun salute; the rap-tap-tap of the sticks on the snare drum rim, marking the cortège cadence in the graveyard.

Military wives know that images are powerful, even ones shared only among ourselves. Last Christmas, I told my beautiful friend Rebekah, whose family is stationed at Fort Bragg, that I teared up after receiving the holiday card that showed her in a sleigh with her young son and newborn daughter whose father had yet to meet her because he was deployed.

That's not all, Rebekah said. She had to contend with people getting the card and thinking the worst had happened to her husband. "What kind of life am I raising my family in," she wondered, "that I worry that someone will assume he's dead?"

And images of flag-draped coffins—well, my Army-strong posture dissolves at the sight. They bring me face to face with what I might have lost, a terror blast that fires right through me. What startles me is how raw it feels; years past my husband's last deployment, the mere glimpse of such photographs makes that fear leap up inside, fierce and alive.

Had my husband been killed in action, which route would I have chosen for his return were I given the chance—public or private? I can't say for certain, but I'm grateful that military families now get to decide for themselves, a rare shot at agency in a way of life where so many choices—major and minor, life or death—are made for you.

When we discuss what any of us might choose, all I can do for now is weep at the specter of loss and listen. And that's OK because for the moment, no one I know has to make such a decision.

I hope we never will.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The closer

I was traveling on business, doing a few-day stint in middle America between assignments in the Caribbean and the west Pacific.

And that's when I noticed her. She was the only Filipina I've ever seen in that particular city.

She was nervous. She kept patting her hair. Her husband, also Filipino, looked ill at ease in his necktie. He played with the knot and fidgeted. He clutched an envelope and tapped it on the tabletop absently.

They were perhaps 35 or 40 years old, obviously hard-working middle class. I had a table near their booth in the cafe. They were waiting for somebody. I'm not the nosy type, but when I saw who they were waiting for my antennae perked up.

A few minutes later he walked in. He sported a thick gold chain around one wrist, wore a cheap shopping mall suit, and was attended by a haze of drugstore aftershave. He was big but nimble, and looked like he played football at some junior college maybe 15 years ago. A scrape or two with the law wasn't out of the question.

He was a closer.

He dropped a few friendly, but pointed, hints about how important he was and how limited his time was. They were grateful that this nice man would meet them at the cafe, instead of making them drive all the way to his office (which I'm sure didn't exist). Lucky for them he just happened to have business in the neighborhood, so he could "fit them in" to his pressing, high-powered schedule.

As I connected the dots, I surmised that I was seeing the couple getting swindled out of their life savings. Peering backwards to set the stage, I reckoned that a Pitch Man had sold them on the "investment" scam, probably a matter of days before, and now the closer

was moving in for the kill.

Just to head off any last minute dissent, the Closer, oozing friendliness, smoothly boxed in the wife with rhetorical questions. Having worked hard as a registered nurse, working overtime to provide for her family's future, didn't she want the peace of mind that financial security (the "investment") would bring?

She did.

And wouldn't she like the finer things in life, such as shopping, vacations, and cruises?

She would. Especially the cruises. She had never taken a cruise. The Caribbean, they all agreed, sounded nice.

And didn't she want to send her children to the best school and colleges?

Of course.

As easy as that was, the husband was an even easier mark. He was saturated in American pop-culture money talk, which plugs the U.S. airwaves, bookstores and magazine racks. He wanted a "piece of the action."

So he lapped it up when the Closer said things like "aggressive stance" and "reinvested capital gains." The husband was relishing his role as a player of high finance, enjoying his status in his wife's eyes as a kitchen-table genius. The Closer played it well. After dropping a buzzword or two to tickle the husband's ego, the Closer would say to the wife, "Sorry to get so technical here, you can ask your husband about it later, he's obviously real smart about business."

As for the "investment" itself, from what I could glean it was a comical collage of blue sky and horse crap, artfully arranged so it

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and Saipan-Blog.com.



probably wouldn't attract immediate regulatory attention.

The check was for a bit over \$60,000. The Closer was in and out in about 12 minutes.

Having handed over the envelope with the check in it, the husband had nothing to tap on the table. So he fidgeted with his necktie some more, then loosened it now that their important meeting was over.

Here's the big picture: Nobody can understand "investments" and "investing" without understanding the psychology of what I witnessed. This psychology, be it with small, cheesy schemes, or big "legitimate" ones, is what fuels bubbles and, of course, the crashes. Entire books are written about it, but I'm happy to take a whack at it in 800 words.

Still, for some reason, seeing an apparently decent, hard-working Filipino couple blindly leaping into the American "investment" frenzy, well, it was odd. Hopefully it is rare, but the Closer was so good at his approach that I wondered if he and his cohorts were working a network of stateside Filipinos.

Twelve minutes. That's all it took.

Su Xi, Ma Li, and Xi Xi in the House of Horus

TV USA channel has a great ad line to its trailers: Characters welcome! Here are three characters.

Ugly duckling Su Xi of Jiangsu province near Shanghai, renowned textile capital of China, came to work for a garment factory on Saipan. Like her colleagues, she paid three-years' worth of earnings for the privilege of working here. After two years, her contract was not renewed. Though contracted for three years at source, the CNMI only recognizes yearly contracts. Su Xi had not earned enough to recoup her investment, let alone show anything for her two-year stint.

The Immanuel United Methodist Church of Saipan at the time ran a Marianas Resource Center in Oleai, which served *inter alia* as a "sanctuary" for those who sought assistance on labor and immigration matters. The Center initiated a community development project that operated on the principle that to be effective, one needed to deal with *all* the problems and *all* the people within the delimited geography at the same time. In the community grid were three Beach Road karaoke bars across from the popular Oleai Bar and Grill.

The MRC participated in the mayor's food assistance program. On Thanksgiving Day, it distributed food items to the needy residents of the village, including bar workers. Su Xi began work in one of the bars owned by an out-of-work alcoholic and his *mama-san* wife. They sought the Center's assistance on his addiction and her immigrant papers. Su Xi participated in the Center's Christmas and New Year festivities where the cultural diversity of the Church members and the surrounding community were lifted up, affirmed, prayed over and celebrated.

Shy, tall and lanky, Su Xi looked gaudy and anxious. In a six-

month period, her low self-esteem and minimal English got a boost from her regular contact with the Center. The ugly duckling became an elegant woman. One day she announced that she was getting married. She came to me to say goodbye. A lingering embrace perturbed a Center volunteer who later publicly blurted out her discomfort, leaving an earned blemish on my reputation among my puritanical peers. We didn't see her again before the group moved back to the Kobler Korean Methodist grounds.

About the same time, Ma Li of Liaoning's Shenyang also came to work for the garment industry. Similarly, she maxed her credit to afford the trip but she lasted only a year as a sewer. She transferred to a restaurant, fell in love and lived with a flamboyant Guangzhou *hua hua gong zi* (playboy) businessman who had a gambling habit that drove them both to penury.

Ma Li married at 18 but was widowed early. A motorcycle accident killed her young, politically astute and independently well-off husband. A childless housewife who never needed to be gainfully employed, the husband's parents had no reason to keep her from returning home.

Ma Li's liaison with the playboy did produce a son, and when she went to Guangzhou to join him after his business was bankrupt, it turned out that a *ta lao po* (first wife) with two children already existed.

Ma Li took her shattered illusions home, left her son's one-year expenses with her sister, and returned to Saipan to manage her niece's newly opened karaoke bar. The niece, married to a local, was my barber. Two years after Ma Li returned, I became her English tutor. Ma Li was a determined immigrant, first, tying up with a

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

Correction officer who promised marriage but had difficulty separating from his estranged wife, and later, consorting with a homeland security officer whose ways with other ladies belied the sweetness of his lips.

In a four-month period, we located a buyer for the karaoke club. Before we could close the deal, the FBI and *Falun Gong* interfaced and when I returned from my father's Honolulu funeral, Ma Li was at the stockade awaiting trial for human trafficking. She is now serving a four-year sentence in the mainland. My professional and personal involvement with Ma Li painfully cost me a marriage.

Xi Xi of Hangzhou near Shanghai was a despondent pedestrian when I ran into her in front of a cosmetic store in Chalan Kanoa where I just conducted English lessons for Korean nationals. A couple of young thugs snatched her purse containing \$900, a cell phone and personal effects. Penniless and unable to call friends, she was set to walk all the way to San Jose. I offered her a ride.

Battered by a violent father who favored his younger brother

See SU XI on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

Lack of continuity at NMC

I am writing an open letter to the Board of Regents, one that contains a message I could not convey while I was a member of the board lest I be accused of "micromanaging" and interfering in the president's management of the institution. Now that I am no longer a regent on NMC's board, I am free to act as a private citizen concerned about the betterment of NMC and as a watchdog that is willing to make publicly known the problems at our lone postsecondary institution and how they negatively impact the quality of higher education and professional training throughout the Commonwealth. And so it is that I can now write and talk openly on essential issues about what the Board of Regents should be focusing their attention on, particularly at a time close to the end of Dr. Carmen Fernandez's current employment contract that ends in May 2009.

Now that the college has finally completed what was left to be done relative to the remaining issues relating to its show cause accreditation status, I would personally like to thank NMC's hard-working people and their families for supporting them as they spent

nights and weekends at the college in order to address the commission's concerns and recommendations. Thank you for your dedication to our students and to our institution.

The Board of Regents will soon review the "Show Cause Report" prior to its being sent to the accrediting commission. Hopefully NMC will be taken off show cause in June 2009. But getting off show cause should not be the ultimate goal of an institution of higher education aspiring for excellence.

An essential component of education excellence is the general overall climate that characterizes an institution. How does NMC fare in this regard? Based on what is reported to me, there appears to be a dark cloud hanging over faculty and staff due to a particular phrase in the contract of every employee at NMC. The phrase gives the CEO immense latitude for abuse of power, a power which the current president has been wielding regularly since the beginning of her term of office.

Please, NMC regents, take a hard look at the wording of the employee contract and eliminate the clause that opens the door for any CEO to abuse their power.

Continuity of faculty and staff at any institution is essential for continuity of policy and good practices and, more importantly, continuity of accreditation. Let me just cite some examples that demonstrate the lack of continuity at NMC: Since Dr. Fernandez became president (in less than a two-year period) four board members (a majority of the total number) have resigned prior to the end of their term of office. During

the same period, the college has gone through two deans of Instruction, three deans of Student Services, two directors of Library Services, two directors of Admission and Records, and is on its second director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. One can only wonder about the number of faculty and support staff not renewed during the short tenure of president Fernandez at NMC. Shouldn't the board be looking into this to determine the cause for this lack of continuity in staffing and the high rate of turnover in these key positions?

What is now happening at NMC is similar to the situation when Dr. Fernandez was a Guam senator. Attrition rates amongst her staff were definitely higher than normal. For validation of this contention, check out KUAM News reports of 2003 on July 9, Sept. 5, Sept. 16, Nov. 2, and Nov. 26.

Does the Board of Regents want to retain a person to head our only public institution of higher education who *does not* promote continuity in implementation of policies and procedures and institutionalization of good practices? Based upon the numerous concerns that have been brought to my attention, it appears that instead, we have an institutional leader who promotes a climate of fear.

It is up to you, NMC Board of Regents! The fate of NMC is in your hands!

Agnes M. McPhetres
San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▾74
Palau	Rain	▲86 ▾78
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▾77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88 ▾79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▾73
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▾78
Majuro	Sunny	▲85 ▾74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▾57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲61 ▾37
Hong Kong	Showers	▲82 ▾74
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77 ▾69
London	Rain	▲52 ▾36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76 ▾52
Manila	Showers	▲85 ▾76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▾55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▾72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▾45
Osaka	Cloudy	▲47 ▾38
Paris	Showers	▲49 ▾36
Pusan	Sunny	▲53 ▾36
Rome	Showers	▲57 ▾45
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▾41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▾50
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲46 ▾27
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲54 ▾36
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▾45

Tides

Saipan Harbor		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset			
2:05 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet	Today	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Today	6:16 AM	6:58 PM
7:55 AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	Saturday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Saturday	6:57 AM	7:54 PM
2:27 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	Sunday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM	Sunday	7:41 AM	8:54 PM
8:35 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	Monday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM	Monday	8:31 AM	9:56 PM
		Tuesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Tuesday	9:26 AM	10:59 PM

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ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

Saipan-Guam

C09317 5:00am 5:50am Daily
C09318 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily
NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

Guam-Narita

NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily
NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6

Guam-Osaka

NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily

Guam-Nagoya

NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau

CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7
CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

Palau-Manila

CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5

Guam-Manila

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror
CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila

NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong

OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily
OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily
OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7

Narita-Manila

NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

Manila-Nagoya

NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

Hongkong-Incheon

OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily
OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily

Manila-Narita

NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota	FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am Daily
Rota-Saipan	FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am Daily
Saipan-Rota	FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am Daily
Rota-Guam	FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am Daily
Guam-Rota	FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm Daily
Rota-Saipan	FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm Daily
Saipan-Rota	FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm Daily
Rota-Guam	FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm Daily
Saipan-Tinian	FRE		

Letter to the Editor

A penny is what saves you

To the people of the Commonwealth: I will not list the many disasters we are all facing today for they are all to painful, but I will leave all you especially the voters something to think about over the weekend and in the coming months of why we are in the predicaments we face today.

For well over 30 years we the voters had been made to believe and understand that in order to run for the highest seat or any seat in public office, one must possess politics by birth or years of political background to include possessing the educational credentials of having a Ph.D., master's, or bachelor's degree in business administration or political science.

Please correct me if I'm mistaken when I say that the very reason we are all in the predica-

ment we face today is because of the making and the creation of such backgrounds.

A wise old man once told me

that 90 percent of people who possess a high school diploma with years of hands-on experience, hard work, determination, commitment and thorough knowledge in the field they possess prevail over the educated bookworm each time they are put to the test.

Why? The heart of an ordinary person has more sensitivity, understanding and care for the suffering and is 10 times more committed, and determined to achieve a common goal for the good of the people.

The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lin-

coln, was born to uneducated farmer parents, had only 18 months of schooling, and was largely self-educated, yet he guided his country through the most devastating experience in its national history, the Civil War. Lincoln is considered by many historians to have been

the greatest American president. I am sure not one of the candidates currently running possess these traits. Remember my fellow citizens, that 99 percent of the time a penny is what saves you.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Conveniently located on Lower Navy Hill, 5-minute walk to Commonwealth Health Center. Newly renovated building with 3-bedroom 2 bathrooms. EPA approved solar water heater. Free Wi-Fi. Rooftop deck facility for BBQ or Party. Air-condition in all bedrooms.

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FINASISU
TERRACES

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All our properties are equipped with ff. amenities Laundry Area Free trash collection 24-hr water and power Night-time Security Guard On call maintenance staff Ample parking space Cable ready Close to stores and schools For more information please call 285-1317 and look for Jeremy MIHA applicants are welcome & special rates for NMC Faculty Staff, PSS and Military Personnel.

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SU XI

From Page 11

in son-centered one-child-per-family China, she was raised by grandma and farmed out at 18 to work on garments in Jiangsu to settle a family debt. The loaner who was more than a decade her senior consented to an arranged marriage. A son issued from what she termed a "lifeless marriage"; her husband has a physical disability. He tires easily. She came to Saipan on a friend's assistance; the friend turned out to be exploitatively expensive. She expected a factory job. Instead, she was made to apprentice as a masseuse for three months before graduating to the back room.

A Saipan romantic Filipino was her first client. He has a son with a *Japanuki*. He took Xi Xi into his wings. Xi Xi cared for the son after school, and Romeo trained Xi Xi in the art of fluid exchange. "I have two more years with this body," she said, "before I give in to the competition." She is 29, known for repeat customers, including off-island professionals who book weeklong escort service months in advance. Paying exorbitant fees to stay as a commercial cleaner, she offered to be my helper but found and married a sailor, leaving the trade two years ahead of schedule.

Last summer, in a San Francisco streetcar, I saw a familiar face by the exit door. Attired in a simple black dress with a modest string of pearls on her neck and plain black pumps, she sat elegantly with folded hands on her lap, at first, with furrowed brows, and then a Mona Lisa almost-smile. I got off before she did and as I exited, her lips formed the unmistakable "thank you," and when I acted bewildered, she clearly enunciated, "xie xie." It was Su Xi eight years later in all her understated splendor!

Now, where are the TV script-writers when you need them? Isn't this telling worth three episodes on the USA channel?

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Letters to the Editor

An open letter to all retirees

If you are a retiree or a current employee of the government and participating in the defined benefit retirement plan and haven't given much thought to the future of your retirement, you had better do so and quick.

Considering the rapid diminishment of the U.S. economy and by extension the full range of investment instruments which might otherwise be available for the Fund's portfolio, I have been giving some thought to the imminent default of pension payments in the next three or five years if the predictions of Fund officials are anywhere near being accurate. Indeed, the Fund may not have even three years.

The extreme volatility of the

stock market makes it difficult to predict how the Fund's investments will perform as booms and busts are inevitable. There is no guarantee the value of today's investments as low as they currently are will remain at the same level tomorrow and thereafter. Indeed, it is almost certain they will not. There is always the possibility that the Fund's remaining investments could be wiped out sooner than predicted.

Looking unemotionally at the very real possibility of the death of the Fund and considering the matter in a realistic manner while facing cold facts, I frankly don't see where the central government will ever be able to pay

its debt to the Fund or resume payments to avoid the Fund's predicted and certain "crash."

Face it. The central government simply can't pay money it doesn't have any more than you or I could.

As far as any court ever ruling to attach the government's assets for assignment to the Fund as has been suggested (hoped) by some—and the subsequent liquidation to meet the central government's financial obligation to the Fund in an attempt to preserve it—I don't think that will ever occur.

Face reality.

Such assets belong to the people of the Commonwealth—all the people—and not just a cou-

ple thousand retirees. I find it hard to believe that a jury or a court would diminish the assets of all the people to make restitution for the loss of property rights for the retirees.

More likely, the government could simply issue a worthless promissory note to retirees—and that would be the end of it. You couldn't buy a bag of betel nut with that useless paper. Think about it!

As for breaking a contract with retirees—that supposedly sacrosanct bedrock mechanism of conventional society—SO WHAT!

It wouldn't be the first time the central government broke a contract and while it may suf-

fer a temporary "black mark" by some investors and credit rating firms, it will soon pass and be forgotten as all other unpleasantries are.

Besides contracts are broken all the time and so what if the court awards a judgment against the government? You are simply right back to where it started—facing a cold hard fact that "the government can't pay what it does not have and likely never will have." A court judgment won't make any difference.

"You can't get blood out of a turnip or make a purse out of a sow's ear" as my dear sweet granny was fond of saying.

The above is my sober assessment on the issue of the Fund's future and in my judgment "rose colored glasses" and wishful thinking on the part of some retirees won't change the outcome, as bitter as it may be to accept. Only a concerted, organized, dedicated effort on the part of all retirees can even begin to attempt to solve the problem of "their" fast approaching financial meltdown.

As I think about events that brought about the present situation resulting in the loss of confidence in the government's ability to honor its contractual and legal financial obligation to the Fund, I recall that one of the definitions of treason is "the betrayal of a trust or confidence." In my opinion what has happened to the members of the Retirement Fund by the central government if not corrected and soon amounts to nothing less than "economic treason."

As I see it there are only three

things the retirees can do to even attempt to avert the personal financial catastrophe facing many people and their families. Those are:

First, demand that each candidate running for office—whether for governor or a seat in the Legislature—produce a written "white paper" of their respective detailed, specific plans to preserve the financial integrity of the Fund. And don't accept the harebrained, ineffective, cockamamie, useless idea of floating a pension obligation bond. Believe me, that won't work. (For information on that subject and why "that dog won't fight" see: "Bond Financing" in the *Saipan Tribune* archives of Oct. 24, 2008 and March 6, 2009).

Second, call for each gubernatorial candid to participate in a public debate to offer their respective solutions to the financial crises facing the retirees.

Third, retirees and those members still working and not yet retired should organize and form an association to protect their financial future. This has even been suggested by the chairman of the Fund's board of trustees.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the new retiree's association currently being formed contact Roger Ludwick. E-mail contact is preferred at ludwick@itecni.com. Please indicate "Retiree's Assoc." in the subject bar. Otherwise telephone (670) 322-4950.

William H. "Bill" Stewart
Economist

It doesn't just go away

On March 7, 2009, in a home on Saipan a friend of mine was brutally choked and raped in her bedroom. She is 9 years old.

After her emergency surgery the family never returned to that house. After the initial interviews and a pleasant welcome visit from the police commissioner the family has heard little on the progress of identifying the attacker.

The family is confident that the police investigators are doing everything they can to ensure an arrest and closure to this trauma, but after almost three weeks they are distraught.

The person who did this heinous crime is one of us. If the person who did this crime is a civil servant, I don't want him checking my meter. If the person who did this is a teacher I don't want him in my children's classroom. If he is a preacher I don't want him in my church. If he is a police-

man I don't want him answering a call when I'm vulnerable. If he is your brother he needs help.

This is not L.A., nor is it the New York City subway where random violence happens and the criminal blends into the hoards of people coming and going. This is Saipan, an island in the Pacific with a finite population. We know who has come to our island and left it. The longer this crime goes unsolved the more chance that person will leave and go unpunished.

We all wish this did not happen. It did. It happened to all of us. We should all be having the nightmares she is having. If you have any information regarding this detestable act please contact CrimeStoppers at 234-7272. You do not have to leave your name.

Susan Fishman-Tudor
via e-mail

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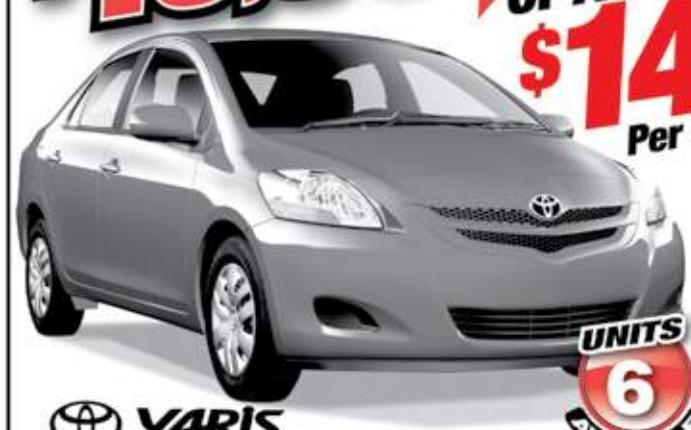
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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS
CARP meeting on April 8

The Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons will hold a meeting for all retirees and all members of the Retirement Fund on April 8, 2009, at the Round House, Garapan Central Park at 6pm.

Agenda for the meeting includes an update on CARP and a discussion with Retirement Fund officials on the state of the Fund and what members can do to save the local retirement system. All retirees and all members of the fund are urged to attend this critically important meeting. (PR)

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held again today, March 27, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. There will be vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. Interested vendors can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. (PR)

Kagman Saturday Flea Market tomorrow

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held tomorrow, March 28, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

CDD awards ceremony postponed

This is to inform the Public that the Developmental Disabilities Award Ceremony scheduled for today, March 27, 2009 from 9am to 11:30am will be postponed. The new schedule will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact the Council on Developmental Disabilities office at 664-7000, 7001, 7002, or 7003. (PR)

Red Cross Walkathon tomorrow

The 23rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon will be held tomorrow, March 28, at 6am, starting at the 4H Building on Beach Road in Susupe.

Register for \$15 and receive a free t-shirt. Walkers start at the designated starting point, then walk north toward the Garapan Fishing Base, then back to Susupe.

Drinks and sandwiches will be available at the start and finish points, and along the routes. Protect yourselves, the young and the old by following the directions of the safety officers. Prizes are available and have been generously donated by the business community. For more information contact the Red Cross Chapter at 234-3459. (PR)

KagES Cultural Day tomorrow

The Kagman Elementary School will be hosting its 9th Annual Cultural Day festivities tomorrow, March 28, 2009, Saturday, at the campus grounds, from 8:30am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; bring the whole family. (PR)

Meetings at the Legislature

- Pre-Economic Summit Government Working Session today, March 27, at 8:30am-1pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
- Public Utilities Commission rate hearings for water, wastewater, and power today, March 27, at 1pm in the Senate chamber.

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

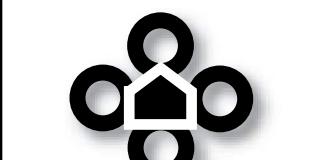
Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on March 27-29, 2009 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is \$50 per couple.

For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following individuals:

- Jun and Linda Pangelinan, 483-4111, linpangelinan@gmail.com;
- Tony and Lynne Yarobwemal, 234-5053, tonyy822@gmail.com;
- Mark and Jenni Aguon, 287-9742, markaguon@gmail.com and apakaaguon@yahoo.com;
- John and Vicky Mafnas, 285-8454, vbmafna@yahoo.com;
- You may also contact the ecclesiastical team/executive board members
- Fr. Ike Ayuyu, 285-9324, ike@ayuyu.us;
- Charles and Cathy Cepeda, 483-6435, charlescepeda@gmail.com or nannakit@hotmail.com. (PR)

NMC alumni barbecue bash

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever "NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" to be held at Managaha on April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to www.nmcnet.edu and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards are now available and include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Come and hang out with former classmates from NMC. Interested alumni can also email Vice President Chris Cabrera at mistercabrera@yahoo.com or Laura Williams at laurawilliams7@gmail.com for more info. (PR)


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Six Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are those adjacent to the Central Repair Shop, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Samoa Housing, Hafadai Hotel drainage and Garapan Fishing Dock.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week it analyzed samples taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast.

Also, DEQ analyzed water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and

storm water drainages this week and none of the samples collected contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria. DEQ assigns a green flag to Tinian waters.

Marine water reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm>. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

English and Math placement tests schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Tests:

April 28	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Room D-1
April 29	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Room D-1
May 14	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Room D-1
	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Room D-1

Math Placement Tests:

May 19	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Room D-1
	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Room D-1
May 21	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Room D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room

will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a \$25 fee each for the English and Math Placement Tests that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English Placement Test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the Math Placement Test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or Hera Ogo at Ext. 1212. (NMC)

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7:30 am until 12:00 pm, Saturday, April 4, 2009
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Parking Lot in Susupe

To make reservations for your space for the sale bring your \$20.00 fee to the Front Desk of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on or before the 31st of March. Space is limited. For more information call the Library 235-7322.

All the cash you make from your sales will go to you. All proceeds from the rental space fees will go to the benefit Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The Library Friends will be sponsoring a used book sale the day of this event to help support the Library. If you have any used books, videos, CD's or cassettes which you would like to donate to the Friends for the sale, please drop them off at the front desk of the Library before March 31st.

The Library Friends appreciate any and all donations!

Museum bookstore temporarily closed

The Arizona Memorial Museum Association bookstore located within the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center in Guam will be closed on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, from noon to 4:30 pm, to conduct their bi-annual inventory.

Although the bookstore will be closed, the visitor center exhibit area and theater will be open to the public. Bookstore operations will resume on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

For more information on the Association visit their Web site at www.arizonamemorial.org. For information on the War in the Pacific National Historical Park log on to www.nps.gov/wapa. (PR)

Estoria-Hu

Tinige' siha ginan as

Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Estoria-Hu ("My Story") presents a collection of writings by the late Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez.

Humanities Council to launch new Chamorro book

The NMI Council for the Humanities invites the public to a book launching ceremony for a new Chamorro language publication on local history and culture to be held at the Multi-Purpose Center on Monday morning, March 30, beginning at 10am.

The book, *Estoria-Hu* ("My Story"), presents a collection of writings by the late *Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez*. It is the third title published by the Humanities Council under its Micronesian Authors Initiative and the first in that series written in the Chamorro language.

The Humanities Council established the Initiative in 2004 to promote the publication of works by indigenous Micronesian writers. Earlier titles published under the Initiative include *Microchild* by the late Valentine Sengebau and *The Rope of Tradition* by Lino M. Olopai.

Tun Juan Sanchez wrote on a

wide variety of topics involving indigenous language, cultures and history in both prose and verse. He is particularly remembered for his eulogy to President John F. Kennedy, written shortly after the President's assassination in 1963.

The book launch ceremony will include an invocation by Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and an overview of the author's life and writings by *Tun Juan*'s colleague and fellow Chamorro language expert, Carmen Taimanao.

Remarks will also be given by Humanities Council board member Herman T. Guerrero, attorney and former Council member Robert T. Torres, PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, and *Tun Juan*'s son, Jose DLG Sanchez.

Commissioner Sablan will discuss PSS' new writing excellence initiative and their decision to name the proposed annual Chamorro

Writers Exhibition in honor of *Tun Juan A. Sanchez*.

The highlight of the ceremony will be the reading of selected excerpts from *Estoria-Hu* by elementary, junior high, high school and college students.

Student readers will include Kimberly Camacho of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Ignacia Sakisat of Hopwood Junior High School, Ernest Sablan from Marianas High School, and Franklin Palacios of Northern Mariana College. A final reading will be performed by *Tun Juan*'s grandson, Jay Sanchez.

Copies of *Estoria-Hu* will be available for purchase at the launching ceremony. They will also be available at the Northern Marianas College and University of Guam bookstores.

Interested individuals are invited to contact Council staff at 235-4785 or visit the Council's Web site at www.nmihumanities.org for more information about this event. (PR)

This Saturday!



Start Time: 6:00am ★ Location: 4-H building-Susupe

★ Lots of fun for the whole family ★

A \$15.00 donation receives a t-shirt and mini flashlight
Free Sandwich and refreshments for walkers DPH

Health Fair ★ Blood Pressure Checks

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Labor applications not OK'd if deficient, denied

The Labor Division of the Department of Labor has reiterated its policy that applications cannot be approved if they are deficient or denied. Also, renewal applications cannot be approved until prior deficiencies and denials have been cleared.

Employers and employees are encouraged to check the Labor Web site (at www.marianaslabor.net) to review the deficiencies/or denials. The site will show the reason for the deficiency or denial.

"It is important that employers comply with the deficiency notice or file an appeal of the denial if they believe the deficiency notice is in error. Question about the status of an application may be directed to Mary Laine Santos at 236-0949," Labor said in a statement.

Permit duration

The division said that employers may use a number of tools, available by law and regulations since 2007, to maximize the duration of the work/entry permits of their foreign workers. These include:

- **Two-year Permits:** Employers may apply for a two-year permit, instead of a one-year permit, for renewal, transfer, or new applications. The two-year permit requires payment of the fee for two years and submission of a bond for two years along with all other requirements.

- **Contract Extension:** An employer may extend a contract for up to six months. This requires submission of a contract extension; a bond for the extension period; and payment of \$25.00 per month for each month of extension.

- **Contract Amendment (adding additional year):** Employers may amend a contract to change it from a one-year to a two-year term. This requires submission of a contract amendment; a two year bond; payment of a \$25.00 amendment fee; and payment of the second year application fee.

Employers may amend a contract to change it from a one-year to a two-year term. This requires submission of a contract amendment; a two year bond; payment of a \$25.00 amendment fee; and payment of the second year application fee.

Contract Amendment (to shorten term)

Employers who have employees expiring June 2009 or after, may amend the expiration date of an existing contracts to shorten the term with a change of expiration date on or before May 31, 2009 in order to submit a two year renewal with an expiration date in May 2011 or earlier. This requires submission

of a contract amendment and payment of a \$25.00 amendment fee.

The employer may then renew for a two-year term.

Early preparation and submission

Labor emphasized that it is "extremely important" for employers to submit complete applications and they do so well in advance of the expiration date. Employers may submit applications up to 45 days before expiration.

To help ensure timely approval, employers should complete all the processing requirements prior to submitting the renewal," it said. These include obtaining the health certificate; copy of valid passport; police clearance; bond (two years if renewing for that term); and a Job Vacancy Announcement.

"The JVA is a critical component. Time for certification of a JVA can range from as little as two weeks to more than a month if there are local applicants," it said.

Use of Labor approved forms, other requirements

Employers must use Labor approved downloadable forms (unless otherwise noted). Forms can be found on the Labor website (www.marianaslabor.net)

The forms and requirements are as follows:

RENEWAL

Forms

- Contract Renewal
- Application Cover Sheet (obtain from Labor)

Other

- Health Certificate
- One/Two-year Bond
- Copy of Valid Passport
- Police Clearance
- JVA
- Photo

TRANSFER

Forms

- Employment Contract
- Application for Approval of
- Employment Contract for
- Foreign National Worker
- Application Cover Sheet (obtain from Labor)

Other

- Health Certificate
- One/Two-year Bond
- Copy of Valid Passport

- Police Clearance
- JVA
- Order Granting Transfer
- Certification of two years
- Work Experience (if change of skilled occupation)
- Photo

(For non-business employers, see Labor staff for additional forms)

NEW HIRE (Off-island/change of status)

Forms

- Employment Contract
- Foreign National Worker
- Entry Affidavit
- Application for Approval of
- Employment Contract for
- Foreign National Worker
- Notice to Foreign
- National Workers
- Application Cover Sheet (obtain from Labor)
- Claim of Exemption
- Moratorium (if not exempt)

Other

- Point of Hire Health Exam
- One/Two-year Bond
- Copy of Valid Passport
- Business and/or Housing
- Inspection (Health & Safety)
- Approved Police Clearance
- Certification of two years
- Work Experience
- Certified Copy of College transcript (if required for position)
- JVA
- Photo
- Certified Birth/Marriage
- Certificate

Source: Department of Labor

A review of Pygmalion

By SYLVIA HAYWOOD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting the musical, My Fair Lady, on two successive weekends in the spring. This is the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Shaw was interested in exploring the power divide between the rich and the poor as well as the differences between accents and ideas of the different social classes. The following is a condensed explanation of Acts I through V of the play, Pygmalion, and will appear on four successive Fridays before the musical is presented at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. The first part was published on March 20, 2009.

The next day at 11am Higgins and Pickering are at Higgins's place on Wimpole Street. They are just breaking for lunch when Mrs. Pearce, the housekeeper, shows Liza in. She looks a little better than she did the night before and has arrived in a cab. She wants to take language lessons from Higgins. She offers to pay him some of the money back that he gave her the night before. Ultimately, she would like to have her own flower shop and needs to be able to speak in a more genteel manner.

Higgins is intrigued, especially, after Pickering bets him that he could not pass her off as a lady at the Ambassador's Ball in six months. After much arguing between Mrs. Pearce, who didn't feel that it would be correct to have Liza live in the house with two men, they come to an agreement that she will live there, study and learn and Higgins will set her up in

a flower shop when she has accomplished her goal.

Pickering is concerned about Liza's reputation as is Liza's father, Alfred, who shows up and demands that his daughter come home. Ultimately, Higgins learns that Alfred is only concerned about getting some money from Higgins. Higgins provides Alfred with enough money to entertain his "missus" and get married if he wants to do so. Alfred is happy with this and goes his merry way.

A few months later, after studying very hard, Eliza is presented to Henry Higgins' mother, against her wishes, but Henry explains that he wants to try out Eliza's accent on some of her high society friends. Surprisingly, some of those friends are Freddie, his mother and sister Clara from the Covent Gardens scene in Act I.

No one recognizes Eliza and Freddie immediately falls in love with her. Henry's mother scolds her son and Mr. Pickering because she feels that no amount of education will change Eliza's background. She also does not approve of Eliza living at Henry's home. She also feels that Henry and Pickering are treating Eliza like a "live doll."

Both men feel that they take Eliza seriously and are very proud of themselves, even though it is Eliza's ear for accents that has allowed her to progress so far.

Next week, we will find that the relationship between Eliza and Henry Higgins has warmed considerably, but is still on rocky ground.

Sylvia Haywood is the publicity chairman for the Friends of the Arts.

To be continued next Friday.

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Friends of the Monument's Agnes M. McPhetres present then-first lady Laura Bush with two orange Mariana Trench Monument t-shirts after the monument declaration signing in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former first lady thanks Friends of the Monument

Former First Lady Laura Bush recently wrote to the Friends of the Monument thanking the group for its role in supporting the creation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

The letter, embossed with the official White House seal, reads, "We are pleased that you joined us at the White House for the signing of the proclamation to create the Pacific Marine National Monuments. Your gifts will always remind us of your support throughout the process that led this special occasion."

Friends of the Monument's Agnes M. McPhetres presented then-first lady Bush with two orange Mariana Trench Monument t-shirts after the monument declaration signing in Washington,

DC on January 6, 2009.

The former first lady added, "Conservation and protection of our ocean resources is vitally important to our nation and the world. I am proud of the accomplishments of my husband's administration to protect America's oceans. He joins me in sending best wishes to your organization for future success in advancing marine conservation."

The letter from the former first lady included an autographed picture of her and former President George W. Bush.

Friends of the Monument's Angelo O. Villagomez said of the letter, "I am really proud of our people. We are showing the world how local actions can have global consequences. Even the former President of the United States and his first lady know about our work here."

The Friends of the Monument was the main proponent for a marine monument in the Marianas. When local elected leaders were not receptive to the idea of a marine monument, the Friends started a petition drive and collected over 6,000 signatures from local residents. The group also

gained endorsements from the business community and prominent community leaders.

The islands' political establishment ultimately supported the monument. According to a statement issued by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on the day of the designation, "I welcome President Bush's historic announcement establishing the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument...Over the past few months, I have been actively engaged in discussions with the White House Council on Environmental Quality regarding the objectives and scope of the proposed monument. I have been joined in these discussions by President Pete Reyes of the Commonwealth Senate and Speaker Arnold Palacios of the Commonwealth House of Representatives."

When asked about what he was going to do with the letter, Friends of the Monument's Ignacio V. Cabrera said, "I'm going to hang it on my wall at home so that I can remember all we have accomplished."

Friends of the Monument officers Agnes M. McPhetres, Ignacio V. Cabrera, and Angelo O. Villagomez were on hand to witness the historic monument declaration this past January.

The Friends of the Monument was formed in the Spring of 2008 to express the voice of the local community and consists of a cross-section of indigenous and resident people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are dedicated to the conservation, preservation and protection of marine flora, fauna and geological features of the oceans; and the creation and proper management of a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

More information on the Friends of the Monument and the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument can be found at <http://marianamonument.blogspot.com>. (PR)



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Island Snapshots



THANK YOU

Dr. Mary Ellen Normandin, Associate Director for Framingham State College's International Education Program, poses with Cohort 7, a class of 25 students from Saipan and Tinian who are pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership, for a picture between lessons. Dr. Normandin, thank you for teaching us 'Curriculum should mirror the environment.'"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COURTESY VISIT

Nobuyuki Kojima and his family from Japan pay a courtesy visit to Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, before they head back to Japan this week. Kojima is a representative of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd. in Beijing, China.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



THANK YOU TAGA RIDERS

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library would like to thank the Taga Riders president Ed Flores, vice president Vince Lizama, and all its members and their families for taking time out of their busy schedule to clean the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, March 21 2009. The group brought their own equipment such as a riding mower and bushcutter—with the donation of the water blaster from Island Equipment Rental's Ed Camacho, who is also the adviser to the Taga Riders, and the water tanker from the Saipan Mayor's Office—to beautify the grounds and the entrance to the library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-059

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE/PURCHASE - ROTA"
OPENING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: APRIL 15, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.



MATH WHIZ

Congratulations to Jasmine Michelle Gortayo, a 5th grader from Grace Christian Academy, for winning Gold Medal in the Data, Statistics & Probability rounds of the Regional Mathcourt held March 21, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONGRATULATIONS

Green Meadow's Robin Matthew Reyes won a silver medal (Data Statistics and Probability) and a bronze medal (Geometry and Measurement) in the Mathcourt regional held last Saturday at Dandan Elementary School. "Your Dad and Mom are very proud of you! Keep up the good work."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-RDLNR-056**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRACTORS AND ACCESSORIES - CIF - ROTA FOR THE ROTA DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS
MAYOR OF ROTA

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A. • Phone: (670) 234-5498
Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web Site: www.nmcnet.edu

Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents
Board of Regents Conference room, NMC - Saipan Campus
Monday, March 30, 2009
2:00pm

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Roll Call
- b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. January 28, 2009 – Regular Meeting
 - 2. March 13, 2009 – Special Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

- a. Associated Students of NMC
- b. Staff Senate
- c. Faculty Senate
- d. President
 - 1. CFAO Financial Report
 - 2. BOR Standing Committees
 - 1. Fiscal Committee
 - 2. Personnel Committee
 - 3. Program Committee
 - 4. Legislative Committee

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. WASC Accreditation Update

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review April 01, 2009 Show Cause Report

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Regent Charles V. Cepeda
Chairperson, BOR

March 26, 2009
Date

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPW-066**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 28, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES - TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF)"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2009 AT DPW - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE IN WRITING TO MR. BLAS T. MAFNAS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-2762, NO LATER THAN APRIL 17, 2009. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

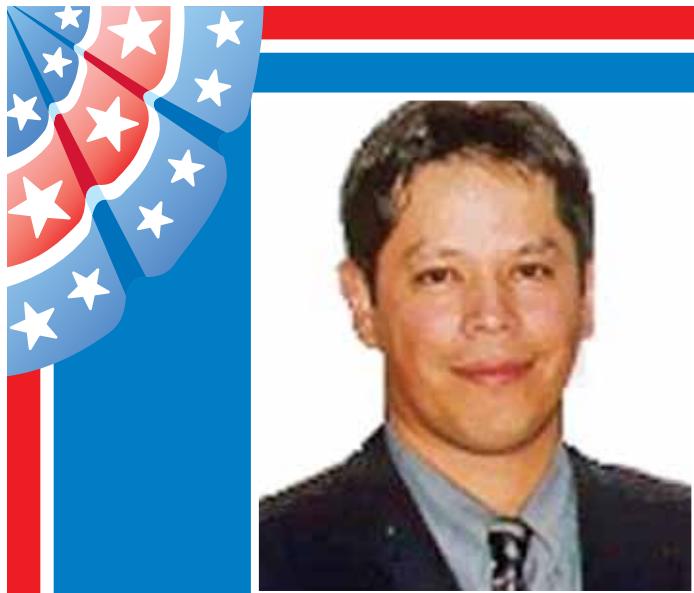
Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 02, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg., Saipan

- A. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - 5. Communications
- B. Reports
 - 1. Chairman
 - 2. Secretary
 - 3. Treasurer
 - 4. Administrator
 - 5. Committees
 - 6. Legal Counsel
- C. Permits and related actions: review and decide
 - 1. 2009-1145 Prime Pacific Properties Preliminary Plat
- D. Old Business
 - 1. Update on 2008-0302 LaoLao Bay Resort shoreline access progress report
- E. New Business
 - 1. Resignation of current Treasurer and election of new Treasurer
 - 2. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment
 - 3. Process for hiring a new Zoning Administrator
 - 4. Process for updating the Zoning Board regulations and Zoning Law
- F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
- G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschnieder, Chairman



The Committee to Elect, Family,
Friends and Supporters present

CAMACHO, Paul William Deleon Guerrero

Your candidate for Senate, Independent, Saipan
General Election, November 7, 2009

SPOUSE

Velma Ann Manibusan Palacios-Camacho

CHILDREN

RyAnne Veronica Palacios-Camacho
Puti'on Primitiva Palacios-Camacho
Paul William Deleon Guerrero Camacho, II

PARENTS

†Albert Sablan Camacho (Bobbing)
†Primitiva Acosta Deleon Guerrero Camacho (Bibang)
Rosario Arriola Camacho (Charo)

PARENTS IN-LAW

Francisco (Tik) Borja Palacios
Veronica Inocencia Manibusan Palacios (Cheng)

GRANDPARENTS

†Luis Taimanao Camacho
†Ramona Reyes Sablan Camacho
†Joaquin Diaz Deleon Guerrero
†Josepha Acosta Deleon Guerrero
†Keniye Saimon Arriola
†Manuel Fausto Arriola

SPOUSE'S GRANDPARENTS

†Antonio Santos Palacios
†Magdalena Borja Palacios
†Jose Cabrera Manibusan
†Ana Benavente Manibusan

*Seated left to right: Winnie P. Camacho,
Mary S. Camacho,
Veronica M. Palacios,
Rosario A. Camacho,
Margarita S. Camacho,
Peding C. Sablan.
Standing left to right:
Roxanne Camacho Torres,
Joe T. Torres, Froilan S. Camacho,
Joseph M. Palacios,
Francisco B. Palacios,
Diego Dlg. Camacho,
Nicasia C. Leon Guerrero,
Governor/Dr. Carlos S. Camacho.
Back row left to right:
Velma Ann M. Palacios-Camacho,
Paul William Dlg. Camacho,
John J. Santos.*

SISTERS/SPOUSES

†Vertilia Camacho Leon Guerrero (Bilang) and Nicolas Cepeda Leon Guerrero
Peding Camacho Sablan and Tito Muna Sablan
Brenda Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Ramona Arriola Camacho Moala and Samisoni Moala

BROTHERS/SPOUSES

Luis Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Diego Deleon Guerrero Camacho and Carmen Babauta Camacho
Manuel Arriola Camacho and Joyce Palacios Camacho
Albert (Bamba) Arriola Camacho and Magdalena (Manding) Quitugua Camacho
Albert Deleon Guerrero Camacho and Sharon F. Camacho
Martin Arriola Camacho and Portia Salas Camacho
Peter Deleon Guerrero Camacho and Eva Corral Camacho
Melvin Camacho Sakisat and Ruthann Palacios Sakisat

IN-LAWS/SPOUSES

Joseph M. Palacios and Bertha Mendiola Palacios
Ignacio M. Palacios and Asunta (Cindy) Lizama Palacios
Frank Jr. M. Palacios and Melissa Delos Reyes Palacios
†Anthony M. Palacios



*'If elected come November, 2009, my priorities will include Public Health,
Environment, Retirement, Education and Tourism'.*

This ad was paid by the Committee to Elect Paul William Deleon Guerrero Camacho for Senator
Joseph M. Palacios, Chairman; Joe T. Torres, Vice-Chairman; Velma Ann M. Palacios-Camacho, Treasurer

Business

Hopeful signs, but economy not out of the woods

WASHINGTON (AP)—Glimmers of hope for the economy—better home sales and higher demand for goods, plus optimism from the White House and a nearly 20 percent rally in stocks—have some people wondering if the worst is over.

Not so fast, say many economists. Layoffs are still mounting and home prices are still falling in an economy shrinking at an alarming rate. A recovery anytime soon doesn't seem likely.

"We may be seeing the end of the beginning of this recession, but it is not the beginning of the end of the downturn," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Still, the recent news has been better than expected. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department said demand for big-ticket manufactured goods, which had fallen for six months in a row, actually rose by 3.4 percent in February.

And reports this week have shown sales of both new and existing homes rising by about 5 percent last month.

On Wall Street, the landscape looks better. The Dow Jones industrials gained about 90 points on Wednesday to close a fraction of a point under 7,750—an 18 percent rally from its low point on March 9.

And President Barack Obama struck a more hopeful tone dur-

ing his televised news conference Tuesday night. "We're beginning to see signs of progress," Obama said, adding that Americans should have a "renewed confidence that a better day will come."

"The good news is that we don't have the sort of unrelentingly persistent declines we had been seeing," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight, who thinks the economy "may be approaching a bottom."

The GDP fell at an annual rate of 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter. Behravesh expects an even more severe decline for this quarter, and even a slight positive by the end of this year.



Vince Navea looks over laptop computers while shopping at a Costco store Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in Shoreline, Wash., a suburb of Seattle. AP

Sources: Extensive regulatory overhaul planned

WASHINGTON



(AP)—The Obama administration is proposing an extensive overhaul of financial regulations to increase oversight of such exotic instruments as credit default swaps that have been blamed for contributing to the worst financial crisis to hit the country in seven decades.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was scheduled to outline

the administration's proposals in testimony Thursday before the House Financial Services Committee. Administration officials provided details of the plan ahead of the testimony only on condition of anonymity. The program the administration was presenting to Congress will also include a recommendation for creation of a systemic risk regulator, possibly at the Federal Reserve, to monitor risks to the entire system.

NY judge freezes assets of Madoff's brother

NEW YORK (AP)—A Nassau County judge on Wednesday temporarily froze the assets of Bernard Madoff's brother after he was accused in a lawsuit of losing nearly a half million dollars in a trust he administered.

The lawsuit claims Peter B. Madoff took \$478,000 that belonged to Andrew Ross Samuels, 22, and invested it in his brother's

Ponzi scheme that fleeced investors of billions of dollars.

Samuels, a Brooklyn law student from Long Island, received the money from his grandfather, Martin J. Joel, who had placed it in the trust in 1997 to help pay for the young man's education. It was supposed to be his inheritance.

Both Peter Madoff and Joel

administered the trust, the lawsuit said. But after Joel died in 2003, Peter Madoff became the sole trustee and invested Samuels' money in his brother's firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, the lawsuit said.

Steven R. Schlesinger, Samuels' lawyer, said Wednesday Peter Madoff had a fiduciary duty to protect the money.

told a House panel. The agency lost \$2.8 billion last year and is looking at much larger losses this year. Reducing mail delivery from six days to five days a week could save \$3.5 billion annually, Potter said. Potter also urged changes in how the post office pre-pays for retiree health care to cut its annual costs by \$2 billion.

Source: IBM to lay off 5,000 US-based workers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—IBM Corp. plans to lay off about 5,000 U.S. employees in a new round of job cuts, the Associated Press has learned. The move reflects IBM's aggressiveness in shifting labor to lower-cost regions like India and keeping its profits aloft at a time when other technology companies' earnings are tumbling. An IBM manager knowledgeable about the plans said the cuts will come from the services division and workers will be informed Thursday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday because he was not authorized to discuss the plan publicly. The layoffs were reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal. The cuts will affect about 4 percent of IBM's U.S.-based work force, which totaled 115,000 at the end of 2008. In a sign of how quickly IBM is staffing up in emerging markets, last year IBM had nearly as many workers in Brazil, China, India and Russia—113,000—as it did in the U.S.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For a 40-TON AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT Baggage Claim Area at the Arrival Building of the Saipan International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a 40-Ton Air-Conditioning Unit at the Baggage Claim Area of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Proposals should include procurement, installation and testing of the new unit as well as 1-year warranty, 1-year preventive maintenance services and 24-hour on-call services for all warranty items. **Proposers are advised that the air-conditioning unit will be fully exposed to the environment including ocean spray due to the airport's proximity to the ocean. The copper coils must be coated to be weather resistant for our area.**

A walk through inspection will be conducted on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet CPA staff at the Ports Police Central Office prior to the inspection to acquire security badges.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 19, 2009



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 237-6500/01 Fax: (670) 234-5962

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to operate a food and beverage concession (currently the "Touch Down Cafe") at the Saipan International Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Interested firms and individuals are invited to submit proposals for food and beverage services to be offered to the public.

Proposal package may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, located at the Administrative Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport during regular business hours. Proposal package is available for \$50.00. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All proposals must be received by the Authority at its Administrative Office, located at the Saipan International Airport no later than Friday, on the 3rd day of April, 2009. In evaluating proposals the Authority will consider certain factors but not limited to financial capability, related business experience, food and beverage to be offered, and staffing.

The decision on the award will be made within a reasonable time (30 to 60 days) after the closing date. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in accordance with the Procurement Rules and Regulations of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request For Proposals may be addressed to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director



ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951
Phone: 1.670.532.7242
Email: rotacommission@gmail.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2009.

DATE: Friday, 27 March 2009
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - 1. Website Development
 - 2. RCGC Funding
- VII. New Business
 - 1. Casino Application
 - 2. Printing of RCGC Forms
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

DIEGO M. SONGAO
Chairman

24 March 2009



HANNAM MARKET | KAGMAN MARKET

288-9290/3639 | 256-4989

**OPEN
24
HRS**

March Special Sale

MARCH 27-29, 2009

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

Clothing Special



MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case SALE \$16.99 22 lbs.	Whole Young Chicken Limit 1 SALE \$33.99 /case 33 lbs.	Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut SALE \$15.49 20 lbs. Limit 2	Baby Ribs SALE \$12.99 10 lbs. Limit 2	Gusto Smoked SALE \$1.99 /lb.	Beef Back Ribs Limit 2 SALE \$24.99 /20 lbs.								
Lotus Brand Rice SALE \$23.99 50 lbs.	Diamond G Calrose Rice Limit 1 SALE \$32.99 50 lbs.	Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1 SALE \$27.99 50 lbs.	Salad Oil 5 Gallon Limit 1 SALE \$24.99	Milk Fish SALE \$1.19 /lb. SALE \$54.99 /case	Tilapia 99¢ /lb. SALE \$37.99 /case								
Ichiban SALE \$7.99 Original Limit 1 Case	Spam All Flavors SALE \$1.99 /each Limit 6 pcs.	Mackerel Pike 22 lbs. SALE \$20.99 /case	Ritz Soda All Flavor SALE \$10.99 /case	Coke Warm only SALE \$12.99 /case Limit 1 Case	HITE Beer SALE \$13.99 /case Limit 1 Case								
GROCERY ITEMS	FROZEN FOOD												
Hormel Chili (No Beans) SALE \$1.59 Limit 12	Hormel Corned Beef Hash SALE \$1.79 Limit 12	Master A1 Tuna SALE 89¢ Limit 6	Sunflower Mackerel SALE \$1.49	Coco Tuna SALE 99¢ Limit 12	Coco Mackerel SALE \$1.29 /each	Ligo Sardines SALE 3 for \$1.00 Limit 12	Chopped Ham SALE \$9.99 /5 lbs. SALE \$17.99 /10 lbs.	Pork Riblets SALE \$10.99 /cs.	Beef Rib Finger SALE \$2.99 /lb.	Ground Pork SALE \$17.99 /10 lbs.	Ground Beef SALE \$15.99 /10 lbs.	Pork Butt SALE \$1.79 /lb.	
Armour Vienna Sausage SALE 59¢ /each	Ox & Plum Corned Beef SALE \$2.29 /each Limit 12	Del Monte Kernel Corn SALE 69¢	Del Monte Fruit Cocktail SALE \$3.99	Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors SALE \$1.29	Hosen Fruit Cocktail SALE \$3.95	Black Label Luncheon Meat SALE \$1.39 Limit 12	Chamorro Sausage SALE \$3.99 /pkg.	Milk Fish Belly SALE \$1.49 /pkg.	Bar S Bacon SALE \$2.49 /pkg.	Chicken Winggets SALE \$9.99 /5 lbs.	Bar S Hot Links SALE \$1.99 /4 pcs.		
Carnation Milk SALE 99¢	Golden State Vinegar SALE \$2.99	Sugar SALE \$1.59 /kg.	Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) SALE \$3.79 1.6 ltr.	Fresco Cooking Oil SALE \$7.99	Argo Cornstarch SALE 79¢	Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. SALE 99¢	Miller Sausage SALE \$14.99 /pkg.	Pork Hocks SALE \$8.95	Pork Belly SALE \$10.95	Milk Fish Belly SALE \$1.49 /pkg.	Bar S Jumbo Franks SALE \$1.05 /pkg.	Dragon Raw Headon White Shrimp 16/20 SALE \$3.99 /1lb.	
Chamorro Punch SALE \$8.99	Seoksu Water 500 ml. SALE \$5.99 /case	Sunkist All Flavors SALE \$5.95 /case	Wilkins Water 4,000 ml. SALE \$1.99 /ea	Lipton Ice Tea 38 qt. SALE \$6.99	Nestea 28 qts. SALE \$5.99	Zest-O Juice All Flavors SALE \$1.95	Hoffy Portuguese Sausage SALE \$1.99 /pkg.	Pork Adobo SALE \$9.95	Pork Adobo SALE \$9.95	Bar S Hot Links SALE \$1.99 /4 pcs.			
Morton Salt SALE 69¢	Vlassic Dill Pickles 1 lb. SALE \$6.99 Whole SALE \$5.95 Whole	Ajinomoto SALE 99¢	Tang 22 quarts SALE \$5.99	Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. SALE \$2.99	Kimchee Base 450 G. SALE \$4.95	Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. SALE \$7.99	Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball) SALE \$7.99 /15 oz.	Pork Spareribs SALE \$6.95	Pork Spareribs SALE \$6.95	Bar S Jumbo Franks SALE \$1.05 /pkg.			
NON-FOOD	PRODUCE												
Bounty Basic 8 Rolls SALE \$7.95	Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls SALE \$3.95	Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls SALE \$8.99	Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls SALE \$8.99	Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs SALE \$4.50	Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls SALE \$3.99		Turkey Tail SALE \$17.99 /cs.	Smoked Salmon Collar SALE \$1.99 /lbs.	Cut Crab SALE \$5.95 /box	Green Mussels SALE \$4.99 /5 lbs.	Vega Shrimp SALE \$4.99 /lb.		
Ariel 3 kg. SALE \$5.99	Gain Liquid Detergent SALE \$4.99	Suavitel 850 ml. SALE \$1.59	Adult Diapers SALE \$7.95	Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. SALE \$5.99	Safeguard Bar Soap SALE 59¢ /each		Red Onion SALE 99¢ /lb.	Orange SALE 89¢ /lb.	Potato (Jumbo) SALE 79¢ /lb.	Gala/Fiji Apple SALE \$3.99 /pkg.	Banana SALE 99¢ /lb.		
Clorox 96 oz. SALE \$2.99	Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes SALE \$16.95	Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. 2 for \$2.50	White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. 2 for \$2.95	Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. SALE \$6.95	Butane Gas SALE \$21.99 /case 2		Red Onion SALE 99¢ /lb.	Onion SALE 59¢ /lb.	Garlic SALE 89¢ /pack-4 pcs.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large SALE \$1.99 /doz.			
EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE													

**Family Bag
Special**

Pork Hocks.....	\$8.95
Pork Belly.....	\$10.95
Pork Adobo.....	\$9.95
Pork Spareribs.....	\$6.95
Pork Chops.....	\$13.95
Beef Stew.....	\$13.95
Beef Backribs.....	\$8.95
Beef Shortribs.....	\$15.95
Stewing Chicken.....	\$5.95
Quarter Leg s.....	\$5.95

**Family Bag
Special**

Nation

Investigators say food tracing system full of gaps

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government investigators testing the nation's food tracing system were able to follow only five out of 40 foods all the way through the supply chain, according to a report to be released Thursday.

The ability to trace food is a critical part of investigations into outbreaks of food-borne illness and would be crucial in a bioterrorism attack. Food companies are required by federal law to keep records that would allow investigators to follow suspect foods one step back and one step forward in the supply chain.

But an investigation by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office found that the records many companies keep are not detailed enough. And one-quarter of the company managers were totally un-

aware of the record keeping requirements.

"The food safety regulatory structure lacks an adequate traceability system," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., who requested the investigation. "Traceability is a critical tool in our ability to identify the source of a food-borne illness outbreak. Trace-back will be a critical part of food safety reform in this Congress."

In the test, government investigators bought 40 food items, including bottled water, eggs, oatmeal, tomatoes, fruit juice and yogurt. They then attempted to trace the items back from the retailer to the source.

They were only able to fully trace 12.5 percent of the items.

For 31 of the 40, investigators said they

were able to identify the facilities that most likely handled the products.

And in the case of four items—10 percent of the total—investigators were unable to identify the facilities than handled them.

Problems with tracing foods drew attention last summer after investigators from the Food and Drug Administration struggled for weeks to identify the cause of a salmonella outbreak initially blamed on tomatoes. No contaminated tomatoes were found, but the outbreak strain eventually was discovered in hot peppers from Mexico.

The inspector general's report said most facilities do not keep records with specific lot numbers that would facilitate the tracing of foods.

ACROSS THE NATION

F-22 crashes in California desert near air base

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—One of the Air Force's top-of-the-line F-22 fighter jets crashed Wednesday in the high desert of Southern California. There was no immediate word on whether the pilot ejected. The F-22A Raptor crashed 35 miles northeast of Edwards Air Force Base, Pentagon spokesman Gary Strassburg said. The Bureau of Land Management identifies the area as Harper Dry Lake, a vast and empty expanse of sometimes marshy flat land. Rescue crews were at the site in the afternoon but there was no information on the status of the pilot, said Lt. Col. Karen Platt, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon. The crash occurred at 10 a.m., said Airman 1st Class William O'Brien, a spokesman at Edwards.

Chaos and clashes undermine help for octuplets mom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The list of people octuplets mother Nadya Suleman has alienated from her chaotic life grows by the day: A number of public relations handlers have parted ways and Suleman fired a group of nurses providing charity care. Despite providing good theater on stages from the "Dr. Phil" show to Web sites, her apparent attempt to go it alone raises a larger question of how the unemployed, divorced, single mother is going to bring up 14 children. While it's unclear whether Suleman can't play well with others or if she's a victim of a situation beyond her control, former members of her inner circle are lashing out. "This woman does not care for these kids, she's in this for the media, for the paparazzi," nurse Linda West-Conforti told Dr. Phil McGraw on his TV talk show Wednesday.

Fewer than 10 pct. of blind Americans can read Braille

BALTIMORE (AP)

Jordan Gilmer has a degenerative condition that eventually will leave him completely blind. But as a child, his teachers did not emphasize Braille, the system of reading in which a series of raised dots signify letters of the alphabet.

Instead, they insisted he use what little vision he had to read print. By the third grade, he was falling behind in his schoolwork.

"They gave him Braille instruction, but they didn't tell us how to get Braille books, and they didn't want him using it during the day," said Jordan's mother, Carrie Gilmer of Minneapolis. Teachers said Braille would be "a thing he uses way off in the far distant future, and don't worry about it."

That experience is common: Fewer than 10 percent of the 1.3 million legally blind people in the United States read

Reid open to fast-tracking health care overhaul bill

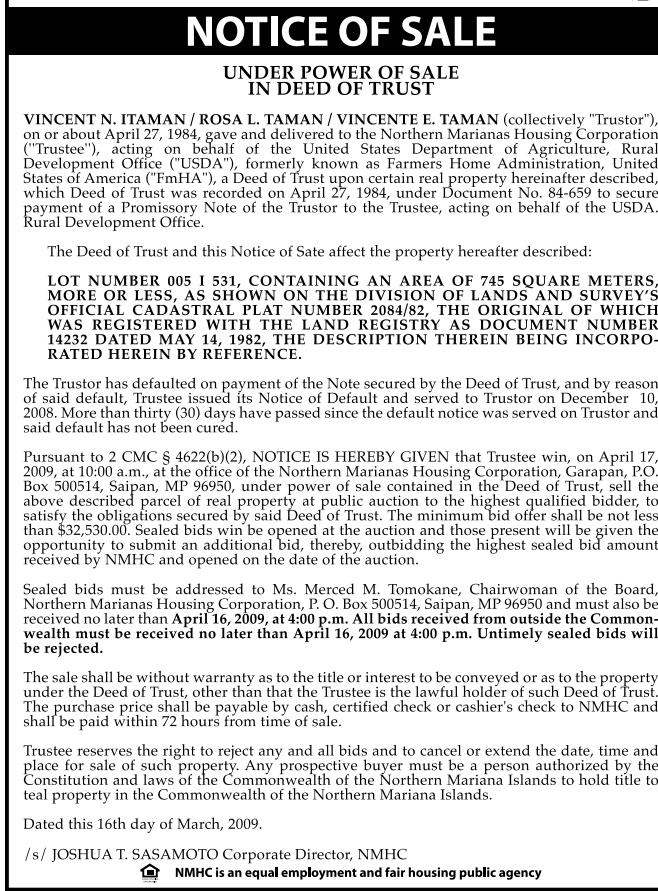
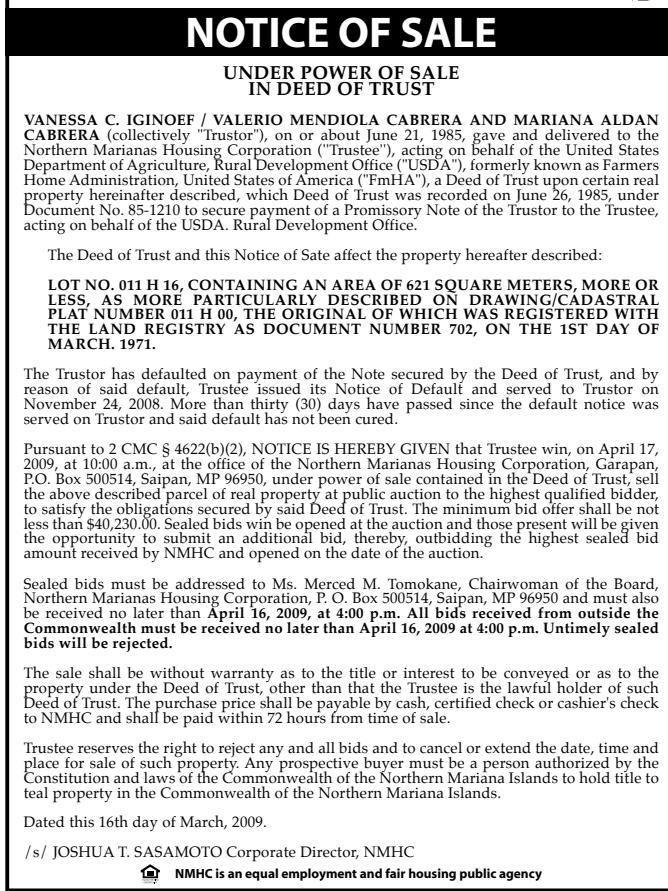
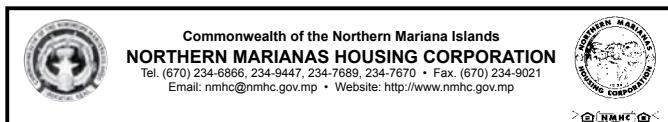
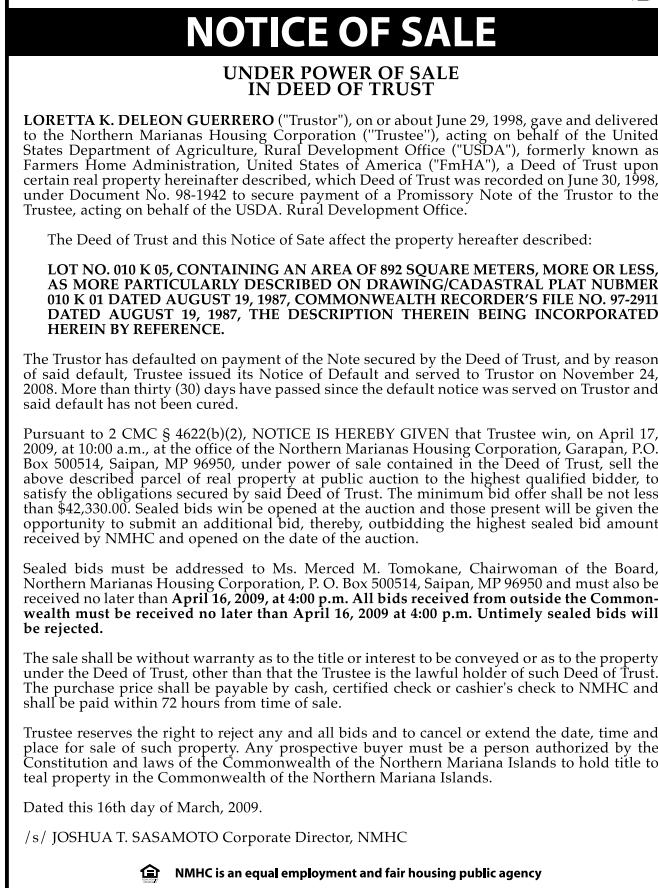
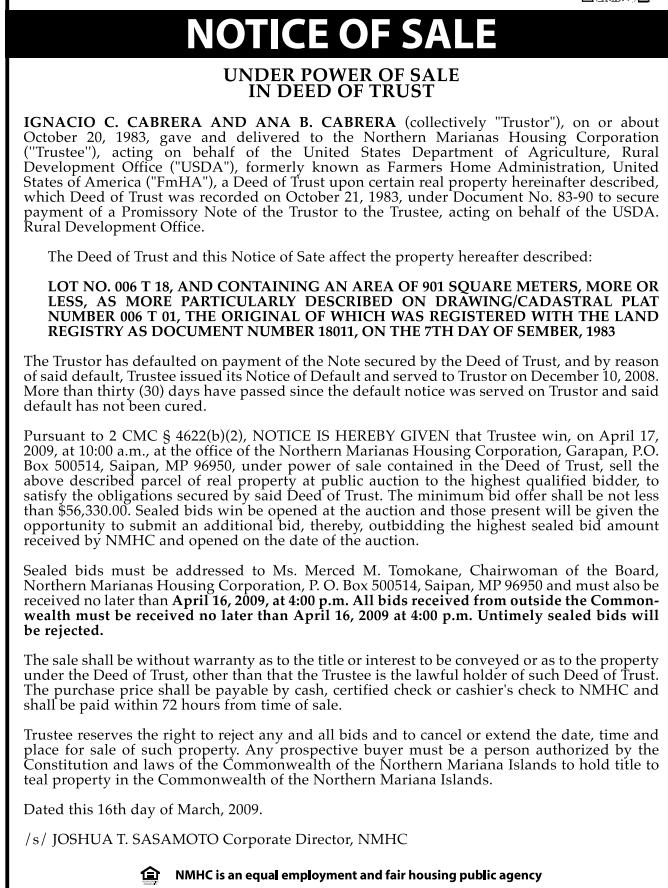
WASHINGTON (AP)

Majority Leader Harry Reid indicated Wednesday he's willing to move sweeping health care legislation through the Senate with a procedural maneuver that would block a GOP filibuster. The prospect of the controversial tactic has already ignited Republicans' ire, and key Senate Democratic chairmen have said they don't want to do it.

Reid, D-Nev., took a different position on a conference call with reporters.

"I think it's something we need to consider," Reid said.

At issue is a so-called reconciliation bill, which could pass with a simple majority of 51 votes and without Democrats





**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-008**

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center - A, B and C.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after March 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (**US\$150.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 08, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office, Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 15, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-008**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 17, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 17, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 17, 2009, and must be received no later than April 28, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 4, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time on April 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project funding derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 13-2D.4 and RLDR 13-4, FY 1996-2002.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days after established Notice to Proceed date. However, if a Contractor is awarded two (2) different packages, performance time shall be completed within One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days issuance of Notice to Proceed date. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$ 100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement and Supply

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW09-RFP-014

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS,
PHASE II-A CM-NH-0031 (014)**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 27, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (**\$50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on April 15, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 30, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW09-RFP-014**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **May 5, 2009** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 5, 2009** and must be received no later than **May 14, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-010**

**SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING FOR THE CAPITOL HILL
BASEBALLFIELD, SAIPAN**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Additional Outdoor Lighting for the Capitol Hill Baseball Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after March 13, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of one Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 31, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Capitol Hill Baseball Field, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 09, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-010**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 03, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time April 03, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 03, 2009, and must be received no later than April 20, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, April 23, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on April 13, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW09-RFP-015**

CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CRASH ANALYSIS SYSTEM

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Consultant Services for the Design and Development of a Crash Analysis System for the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNNU Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public law 15 95 and as further amended by Public Law 15 118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-310 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of work for phase I of this multi phase effort will be available on or after March 25, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. No Pre proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFP. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division and to Mr. Rosello R. Torres, Engineer, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or faxed to (670) 234 3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 17, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the company or individual	30%
2. Past Experience on similar projects	40%
3. Current workload and ability to perform the scope of work	30%

Technical merit and experience in traffic records, data collection, highway safety and expertise in Federal Section 408 Traffic Safety funding process is important in the selection criteria.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW09-RFP 015**". For proposers within the CI%M, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am local time April 22, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNNU may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 22, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664 1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 22, 2009 and must be received no later May 1, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNNU Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3 301 of the CNNU Procurement Regulations.

This procurement will be

World

Clinton: US shares blame for Mexican drug wars

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday that America's "insatiable" demand for illegal drugs and its inability to stop weapons from being smuggled into Mexico are fueling an alarming spike in violence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Clinton said the United States shares responsibility with Mexico for dealing with the violence and that the Obama administration will work with Mexican authorities to improve security on

both sides of the border.

President Barack Obama himself said Tuesday that he wanted the U.S. to do more to prevent guns and cash from illicit drug sales from flowing across the border into Mexico. But Clinton's remarks appeared more forceful in recognizing the U.S. share of the blame. In the past, particularly under the Bush administration, Mexican officials complained that Washington never acknowledged the extent that the U.S. demand for

drugs and weapons smuggling fuels the violence.

"I feel very strongly we have a co-responsibility," Clinton told reporters accompanying her to Mexico City a day after the Obama administration said it would send more money, technology and manpower to secure the Southwestern frontier and help Mexico battle the cartels.

"Our insatiable demand for illegal drugs fuels the drug trade," she said. "Our inability to prevent weapons from being

illegally smuggled across the border to arm these criminals causes the deaths of police officers, soldiers and civilians."

Criminals are outgunning law enforcement officials, she said, referring to guns and military-style equipment like night vision goggles and body armor that the cartels are smuggling into Mexico from the United States.

"Clearly, what we have been doing has not worked and it is unfair for our incapacity ... to be creating a situation where people

are holding the Mexican government and people responsible," she said. "That's not right."

Clinton said she would repeat her acknowledgment as loudly and as often as needed during her two-day visit to Mexico City and the northern city of Monterrey during which she will brief Mexican officials on U.S. plans for the border and counter-narcotics aid to Mexico.

In her discussions, Clinton plans to stress Obama's commitment and encourage Mexi-

can President Felipe Calderon and his top aides to boost efforts to combat rampant corruption by promoting police and judicial reform, according to senior U.S. officials.

Just hours before she arrived, the Mexican army announced it had captured one of the country's most-wanted smugglers, a man accused of controlling the flow of drugs through Monterrey for the powerful Beltran-Leyva cartel. Clinton will visit Monterrey on Thursday.

Filipino Red Cross hostage: We are afraid for our lives

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

One of three Red Cross workers held by Muslim militants said she feared for her life after captors set a deadline to behead one of them and Philippine troops rejected a demand to pull out of a southern jungle.

"Time is running out," Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba said in a cell phone interview with ABS-CBN television late Wednesday, as she appealed to the Philippine government to act quickly to end the 2 1/2-month-old hostage crisis.

Lacaba said she and her two European colleagues from the International Committee of the Red Cross—Swiss Andreas

Notter and Italian Eugenio Vagni—were afraid for their lives "every minute, every second because we don't know when a firefight will suddenly start."

Their ordeal entered a critical stage this week after Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad threatened to behead one of the hostages if troops did not withdraw from the group's jungle stronghold near Indanan town on Jolo island.

Jolo Gov. Abdusakur Tan said the militants told a government emissary that the deadline for the troops to withdraw to Jolo town, near Indanan, is Tuesday. But the military swiftly rejected the ultimatum, saying the gunmen could not be trusted.

Australia's Rudd to America: China is not an enemy

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has urged Americans not to view China as an enemy but as a country offering huge economic opportunities,

even though its leaders have "done some bad things in the past."

Rudd was speaking during a visit to Washington, where the Mandarin-speaking former diplomat has been welcomed as an expert on China as well as a close ally of the United States.

Rudd was asked on the influential PBS television program "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer" whether Americans should view China as an ally, an enemy, or some other way.

"I think China represents a huge opportunity for us all for the 21st century," Rudd replied, noting the country had a big part to play as "the center of global economic gravity" shifts toward the Asia Pacific region.

WORLD BRIEFS

Officials: Suicide attack kills 11 in NW Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck a restaurant in volatile northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 11 people including militants opposed to the country's top Taliban commander, intelligence officials said.

Pockets of northwest Pakistan are strongholds for Taliban, al-Qaida and other militant groups, not all of whom get along. Even as Pakistan has battled the extremists and the U.S. has carried out dozens of missile attacks against the militants—including a suspected American strike that killed eight Wednesday—the armed groups have also attacked one another.

The attack Thursday morning occurred just outside the South Waziristan tribal region near the town of Tank at a roadside restaurant where some two dozen militants

loyal to Turkistan Bittani were eating, two intelligence officials told The Associated Press.

UN says little progress made on key Gaza issues

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N.'s political chief says he is worried that very little progress has been made in cementing a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and opening border crossings to rebuild the devastated Palestinian territory. Two months after Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers declared unilateral cease-fires, Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe told the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday that there has also been little progress on preventing illicit arms trafficking into the coastal territory and reconciling the rival Palestinian factions. He said the key impediment is "the intolerable situation at Gaza's crossings."

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASTRO ("Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 09, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1984.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$53,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO Corporate Director, NMHC

 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$85,730.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO Corporate Director, NMHC

 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE D.L.C. KING (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$38,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO Corporate Director, NMHC

 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147

Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Filing of application. PTI Services, Inc., (the "Applicant"), has filed its application with the Commonwealth Development Authority for a Qualifying Certificate under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §3301, et seq.).

B. Address. The address of the Applicant is Susupe, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

C. Proposed investment. The Applicant intends to invest approximately \$3.6 million to expand and operate its call center located at Susupe, municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

D. Benefits sought. The Applicant is applying for tax relief provided by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §3301, et seq.) as follows:

<i>Nature of Tax:</i>	<i>Percentage Requested:</i>	<i>Period Requested:</i>
<u>Business Gross Revenue Tax (abatement)</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Corporate Income Tax (rebate)</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Excise Tax (abatement)</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Capital Gains Tax (abatement)</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years.</u>

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

**Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-011**

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Ladera International School of Saipan (LISS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, NM 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-011" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-011" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-012**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Survey, Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Garapan Elementary School (GES) on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-012" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 08, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-012, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS or BOE Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. All interested contractors must register at the P&S Office and get an authorization for Quick Print to pay and picked-up the Scope of Work and the Plans and will be assessed for the plan and the Scope of Work

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-013**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its School Bus and Vehicle Fleets on Tinian**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz
PSS Acting, P&S Officer

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man allegedly tries to steal his 'dream car'

ELGIN, Ill. (AP)—Police say Carliss Henderson was overjoyed when he found his dream car—a red Nissan Altima with a push-button ignition. The only catch? It was locked up in an auto dealership. According to police, around midnight Sunday, Henderson saw his dream car on the showroom floor of McGrath Nissan. They say he broke into the dealership and started the car, but couldn't find a way to get it out of the building. Angered, the 21-year-old picked up a chair and threw it at the showroom window directly behind the 2009 car, reports said. But when he put the car into reverse and tried driving backward through the broken window, the car wouldn't move, police said.

Man plays Madoff's prison number and wins \$1,500

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff is a lucky charm for one New York City construction worker. Queens resident Ralph Amendolaro said he saw Madoff's prison number in a newspaper and had a good feeling so he played the last three digits of it in the state lottery's Numbers game. It hit March 15, paying \$1,500. Lottery officials say other people had the same idea. The number combination 0-5-4 produced 501 winning tickets the Sunday after Madoff's guilty plea, up from 120 winners the previous day. Madoff's prison registration number is 61727-054. A lottery

spokeswoman says people often play numbers they see on the news. So many people played the flight number of a jet that landed safely in the Hudson River that the lottery had to halt sales.

Man gets 90 days in jail in vacuum sex act case

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP)—A man who police said was arrested for performing a sex act with a car wash vacuum was sentenced to 90 days in jail on Wednesday and ordered to submit to drug testing. The 29-year-old man pleaded no contest to indecent exposure last month. Police said the man was arrested after a resident called officers early on Oct. 16 to report suspicious activity at a car wash in Thomas Township, about 90 miles northwest of Detroit.

Police say woman used fake ID to get fake breasts

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police are seeking a woman they said used a false identity to get breast implants and liposuction, then skipped town. Huntington Beach police said Monday that a 30-year-old woman opened a line of credit in someone else's name in September 2008 and had the procedures worth more than \$12,000 performed at the Pacific Center For Plastic Surgery. Employees said she never returned for follow-up visits. The woman turned herself in Tuesday and was released on \$20,000 bail.

Fake Justice accused of performing weddings

SEDONA, Ariz. (AP)—Sheriff's officials in Arizona say a man impersonated an elected justice of the peace and performed several weddings whose legality are now in doubt. Yavapai County Sheriff's spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn says 41-year-old Allen Elfman was arrested Tuesday on charges of fraud, forgery, criminal impersonation, impersonating a public servant and tampering with a public record. D'Evelyn says a county court administrator brought the case to the attention of the county attorney's office. Sheriff's detectives have found at least four couples who were married by Elfman.

Needy Seattle area dogs receiving kibble windfall

SEATTLE (AP)—A mountain of dog food has proven a bit of a headache for the Port of Seattle. Port officials bought 12.7 tons of kibble in June to test new baggage conveyor systems at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. In October, the 1,600 bags were stored in a warehouse, with snowstorms keeping it there longer than anticipated. On Tuesday, port officials voted to donate the dog food to two animal shelters, but it was too much for the outlets in Seattle and King County to store. So the shelters are passing on most of it to food banks for the dogs of people in need.

Annuncio - Arongorong Announcement

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:



The office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums on FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and to amend the current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job. More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together or prepare, secure and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?



Community Forum on VR & IL State Plan FY 2008-2010

TINIAN

March 31, 2009

TINIAN Aging Center

State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.

State Plan for Independent Living at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION: If you require special accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Ignoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at website & office.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovr.gov.mp

For more information on the VR & SPIL State Plans, please contact:

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

Jess Elameto
SRC Chairperson

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 would be available for public comment beginning March 24, 2009.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works - Technical Services Division (TSD) at Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. For those residing in Tinian and Rota copies may be obtained from the local Public Works Offices.

Questions and comments regarding the TTIP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

ARONGOL TOULAP

Sóumwar ye Benigno R. Fitial, Sów Lemelem me Timothy P. Villagomez, Sów Máng sángi Bwulasiyool Public Works (DPW) re kke arongaar aramas toulap bwe Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) reel rágh kka 2009 mwet ngáli 2011nge ebwe lo bwe toulap rebwe isisilong yaar mágemáng, ebwe bwél wóól Máilap (Mótso) 24, 2009.

Progróoma ye Highway Federal-Aid nge formula grant program iye gobenool CNMI e ghal bwughi alongal ráagh mireel US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Highway Administation (FHWA).

Tilighiyal TTIP nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mireel Bwulasiyool Public Works Technical Services Division (TSD) me Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Seipél. Schóol Tchúlúyol me Luuta ebwe bweibwogh mireel bwulasiyool Public Works me lye.

Mágemáng me ayegh reel TTIP nge ebwe isisilong mmwal 4:00 lefáaf wóól Sééta (Abriid) 21, 2009, ngáli Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Samwoolul Technical Services Division DPW. Suite 212 Joeten Oleai Center me ngáre fax ngáli (670) 235-6346.

ESPESIÁT NA NOTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Gobietno as Benigno R. Fitial yan i Segundo Gobietno as Timothy P. Villagomez, ginén i Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pupbliku(DPW), malago' na para u notisia i pupbliku henerát na i Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan(TTIP) para i Fisikát na Sákkán 2009 asta 2011 para u guaha opíñon pupbliku tinituhon gi Mátso 24, 2009.

I Federal-Aid Highway Program i formula grant na prográma na i Gobietnamenton CNMI ha risisibi kada sákkan ginén i U. S. Dipattamenton Transpottasian (USDOT), Atministracion Federal Highway(FHWA).

Kopia siha pot i TTIP siña ha mahenta ginén i Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pupbliku-Dibision Setbision Teknikát (TSD) gi Suite 212, gi Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. Para todú ayu siha i mañásaga Tinian yan Luta kopia siha siña mahenta ginén i Ofisinan Cho'cho' Pupbliku siha.

Kuestion yan opíñon siha pot i TTIP debi na u mana'hálom i opion tinige' ántes di alas kuátro(4:00)gi despues di talo'áni. gi Abrit 21, 2009 guatu gi as Siñot Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Direktor i Dibision Setbision Teknikat, DPW Dibision Setbision Teknikát siha, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, pat fax guatu gi (670)235-6346.

/s/ DIEGO B.SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

Science & Technology

HELP FILE

Decoding license agreements

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q Do you have advice about how to make sense of the terms of service and license agreements we have to accept before joining a Web site or installing a program? They seem to be total gibberish.

A These documents can go for thousands of words, but they usually come in a form that permits selective skimming to find the parts that might cause you trouble.

The first thing to do is to find the license or terms of use. On a Web site, look at the bottom of the home page for a link titled "terms," "agreement," "license" or "policy." In a program, try searching for the same words in its help file.

Then look over the section headings for the standard-issue boilerplate you can ignore. For example, nearly every consumer program or Web site's license includes a "disclaimer of warranty," relieving it of any obligation to function as advertised. You can also skip over sections such as "Limitation of liability" and "Export controls" (which tend to fill the tail end of license documents and run in all capital letters).

The stuff to watch out for generally comes higher up. Look for headings like "Use" and "Usage" to discover that, for instance, Microsoft Word 2007 allows you to install it on two computers. An "Upgrades" paragraph can reveal that a program will install new updates automatically. A "Territory" section can state that you can't use a Web site's services outside the United States. "Disputes" or "Arbitration" clauses can require you to give up any right to sue and instead accept binding arbitration.

Finally, never skip the "Privacy" section, even if it refers you to a separate document.

A free Windows program called EULALyzer (javacoolsoftware.com/eulalyzer.html) can analyze the text of a license agreement and flag "interesting" passages for you, although it can still miss noteworthy details.

'Monsters vs. Aliens' creates another dimension

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Monsters vs. Aliens" opens with an old 3-D gag: A ball bounces directly into the audience, causing moviegoers to instinctively scoot back in their seats. But the resemblance to old-fashioned 3-D ends there.

The film, in theaters Friday, relies on entirely new technology—much of it developed during production—to lend depth to an epic battle in outer space and drama to the collapse of the Golden Gate bridge as four modern monsters fight to save Earth from alien invasion.

"We can dial in the (3-D) to a degree that was unthinkable even 10 years ago," said the stereoscopic supervisor at DreamWorks, who legally changed his

name 12 years ago to Phil Captain 3D McNally (it appears on his driver's license as Captain IIID.)

"What I'm hoping people will see in 'Monsters vs. Aliens' for the first time is stereoscopic filmmaking that feels completely integrated into the flow of the story."

Unlike most 3-D movies, which are conceived and shot in two dimensions and then rendered later, the film was made start to finish in three dimensions, with directors watching daily takes through 3-D glasses.

Producer Lisa Stewart said it made sense for the story, which she characterized as "an homage to the 1950s and '60s monster horror movies where 3-D really first came into the fore." The film follows Susan (voiced

by Reese Witherspoon), who's transformed into the 49-foot-tall Ginormica after she gets hit by a meteor on her wedding day. When aliens attack the planet, it's up to Ginormica and her fellow monsters—a gelatinous blob named B.O.B. (Seth Rogen), a mad scientist called Dr. Cockroach (Hugh Laurie) and a fish-ape known as the Missing Link (Will Arnett)—to save the world.

The characters, concepts and landscapes lent themselves to three-dimensional exploration. But there were concerns about the technology. What were its limitations? Would filmmakers be reduced to a series of coming-right-at-you sight gags?

"There was an initial fear that it was going to be a gim-

atic like it was in the '50s, where we're suddenly going to be asked to throw a bunch of stuff out through the screen," Stewart said. "But that was not

at all what he wanted to do. ... It was about how can we use this (technology) to tell the story that we're already telling, how can we use it to our advantage."



AP

In this film publicity still released by DreamWorks Animation LLC, Ginormica, voiced by Reese Witherspoon, powers through the atmosphere in a scene from DreamWorks Animation's 3D film, "Monsters vs. Aliens."

Study: Technology can overwhelm even 20-somethings

WASHINGTON (AP)—They are comfortable with gadgets, yet shudder sometimes as the cell phone rings.

This group—primarily male and in their late 20s—is called the "Ambivalent Networkers" in a study released Wednesday by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. Pew found this group notable because its members have lived with the Internet and other technologies for much of their lives.

In the study, Pew examined American adults' gadgets and services, their activities and their attitudes toward technology. About 60 percent of the overall respondents didn't have significant attachments to mobile devices, either because they didn't have such gadgets or because they were

fine with desktop PCs.

But nearly 40 percent did say they were glued to their mobile devices. And the Ambivalent Networkers make up a fifth of that group.

"They're the most active on social networks and using mobile devices for a range of activities, yet they think it's a good idea to take a break," said John Horrigan, Pew's associate director for research. "They are not thrilled about all that's available."

These people aren't willing to go off the grid, either, said Lee Rainie, Pew's director. Their friends, family and co-workers are all connected by technology, and they fear they'd miss out if they check out.

Technology, to them, "feels like an obligation," Rainie said.

Another one-fifth of the mo-

bile-attached users feel quite differently. These people, according to Pew, are the "Digital Collaborators." They not only are comfortable with technology, but they also are enthusiastic. They also tend to be male, but in their late 30s.

Horrigan said Digital Collaborators more likely have elevated into jobs that require collaboration across distance.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

† Julian Attao Concepcion "Jude"

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved "Jude" unto eternal life.

Mass of Intentions is being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am through March 31, 2009. On the final day, please join us for breakfast at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Please join us in prayers

Vicky Borja Concepcion
Children & Family
Cesario T. Concepcion
& Family



September 26, 1951 - March 31, 2008

Remembering you with love each day, although we are comforted by the knowledge that God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts.

Message of Appreciation

We, the Family of our beloved

Isabel Cepeda Deleon Guerrero

would like to thank all relatives and friends near and far, for their unending support during the celebration of the First Year Death Anniversary of our loved one. Thank you to all for your thoughtfulness and kindness. We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

*As you hold me close in memory, even though we are apart,
my spirit will live on, there within your heart...*

I am with you always

*When you lean on trusted friends and their caring hugs enfold you,
Within their loving arms, I'll be there to hold you...*

I am with you always

*And beyond the far horizon when we'll finally be together,
Where love will be eternal and life will last forever...*

I am with you always

My God Bless Us All

Joe Dlg., Velma Dlg. Dela Cruz & Children

Life & Style

In this undated photo provided by Andrea Barrist Stern, members of the Ars Choralis from left, Deb Cavanaugh, Zoe Zak, and Marisa Tigue Trees rehearse in Woodstock, N.Y., Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, as they portray the women's orchestra of Birkenau, a group of musicians at the Nazi death camp who managed to survive because they could play a musical instrument.



AP

US group re-creates Nazi death camp orchestra

NEW YORK (AP)—When Gustav Mahler's niece greeted new arrivals at a Nazi death camp, she knew that any woman who stepped off the train with a musical instrument had a chance to live. Women in Alma Rose's orchestra were forced to entertain SS officers at the Birkenau concentration camp. All the women survived—except Rose.

Now, an American chorus and orchestra is paying tribute to those musicians with concerts in the U.S. and Germany titled "Music in Desperate Times: Remembering The Women's Orchestra of Birkenau."

On Saturday, Ars Choralis will play at Manhattan's Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, whose Episcopal bishop had spoken against the persecution of Jews in Europe already in 1933.

During the 18 months the Birkenau orchestra existed, its musicians played pieces the German officers loved—Beethoven symphonies, Puccini arias, Chopin and Strauss waltzes. The women also had to play marches for emaciated, often sick prisoners as they struggled to walk to their forced labor jobs.

All around was death—people perishing outdoors, or in filthy barracks and gas chambers. More than 1 million disappeared in this place of horror.

When the Vienna-born Rose (pronounced roh-ZAY') was sent to the camp, the SS guards realized she was Mahler's relative and had conducted an all-women's orchestra. She was asked to form one at Birkenau, for the pleasure of the Nazis.

"As the women came off transport trains, if they had a guitar, a violin, a recorder or a mandolin, they were put aside," said Alice Radosh, who helped organize the Ars Choralis concerts. "People would hear classical music—and think, 'How bad could this be?'"

The truth was, "we played with tears in our eyes and guns at our backs," Radosh quoted accordion player Esther Bejano as saying after the war.

They were still expected to play well—or face possible death.

"At Birkenau, music was indeed the best and worst of things," wrote the late Fania Fenelon, a cabaret singer from Paris who wrote the book "Playing for Time," which was turned into a television movie starring Vanessa Redgrave.

"The best because it filled in time and brought us oblivion, like a drug; we emerged from it deadened, exhausted," Fenelon said, "and the worst because our public consisted of the assassins and the victims, and in the hand of the assassins, it was

almost as though we too were made executioners."

With the orchestra, Rose saved more than 50 women, including Fenelon, who died in 1983; three are still alive.

Exactly what killed the great composer's niece remains a mystery. A document signed by Josef Mengele on April 4, 1944, shows that the Nazi SS physician who performed experiments on prisoners was summoned to a special private room where Rose lay, slipping in and out of consciousness from an undiagnosed illness. Mengele signed a form requesting medical tests for meningitis and pneumonia that came out negative.

Rose died the next day, her arms twisted in seizures. She was respectfully laid out atop a white cloth, with floral tributes sent by SS officers, according to Fenelon's book.

Mourners filing by included her musicians and the orchestra's protector, Maria Mandel, the camp's sadistic chief of female wardens. Mandel was a fan of classical music and of the 37-year-old conductor, whom she mourned openly, according to the 2000 biography "Alma Rose, Vienna to Auschwitz" by Richard Newman.

In October 1944, the Jewish women in the orchestra were evacuated by cattle car to the Bergen-Belsen camp in Germany where Anne Frank died, according to Newman's book. The non-Jews were sent from Birkenau to neighboring Auschwitz.

Although there was no chorus at Birkenau, the 48-voice Ars Choralis serves as a kind of "Greek chorus," commenting on the human tragedy six decades ago at the death camp in Poland.

At Birkenau, the musicians performed in lavender scarves and white blouses, as do members of the Ars Choralis ensemble. Ars Choralis includes the usual violin, cello, flute and percussion, plus mandolin, accordion and recorder.

The upcoming program will combine music of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Puccini with words read from the wartime musicians' memoirs, as well as the "Song of Faith," a Yiddish piece sung in camps, Gyorgy Ligeti's "Solitude," and Ben Steinberg's "Shalom Rav," a peace prayer.

"This is amazingly uplifting music," Radosh said.

The not-for-profit Ars Choralis is itself a story, of how a small town in upstate New York—Woodstock—recruited singers representing a cross-section of the community, from teachers and nurses to gardeners and contractors. The orchestra and soloists are hired professionals.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Rosalyn Connie Alepuyo Sanchez Mafnas

Lovingly known as
Nene'

Was born on February 9, 1989 and
Called to her eternal rest by our Heavenly Father on March 21, 2009
at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

In her passing, she now joins her:

Maternal Grand Parents: Juan Sumabol Alepuyo & Rosario Camacho Alepuyo

Paternal Grandparents: Juan Aguon Sanchez & Concepcion Deleon Guerrero Sanchez

Aunts & Uncles: Dolores Sablan Alasas, Leon S. Pinaula, Isabel Sablan Taitano,

Maximino Kotomor Taitano

Peter John Deleon Guerrero Alepuyo, Joseph Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero

Cousins:

Her memories will forever remain in the hearts of her family:

Husband: Tyrone Camacho Mafnas (Benjamin Joerone Sablan)

Parents: Martina Alepuyo & Eliezer "Ace" Uchel

Fernando Deleon Guerrero Sanchez

Grandparents: Haruo Uchel & Sadako Uchel

Patrick Greg Alepuyo Sanchez & Luise Vaughn Villagomez

(Zoe Rae; Tihanna Merced; Patrick, Jr.)

Jaylene S. & Patrick Dela Cruz

(Kaylene Camacho Alepuyo, Leo Andre Ed)

Joscelyn Alepuyo Sanchez

Adrian John Alepuyo Uchel

Parents-in-Law: Jose Castro & Patricia Camacho Mafnas

Brothers & Sisters-in-Laws:

Daphne Blanche Camacho Mafnas/

Joaquin Torres (Keandre Joaquin)

Trumaine Leo-don Camacho Mafnas

Patty Jhoe Dayne Camacho Mafnas

Jonavaughn Cole Camacho Mafnas

Keiziah Jonae Camacho Mafnas

She will also be forever loved and remembered by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, nieces and nephews

Nightly mass is offered at the San Vicente church at 6:00 p.m. and followed by the rosary at 7 p.m.

On **Tuesday, March 31, 2009**, our beloved Nene' will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home at 9 a.m. to the Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3 p.m. followed by the interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers

From the Family

Party in Dubai may spell trouble for Snipes

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Prosecutors in Florida want a judge to restrict actor Wesley Snipes' international travel because they say he attended a lavish party in Dubai while free on bond as he appeals a tax conviction.

Snipes attended the \$20 million party last November for the opening of the \$1.5 billion Atlantis Hotel resort, U.S. attorneys in Ocala, Fla., said in court filings Tuesday.

A jury convicted the action star last year of three counts of willfully failing to file his income taxes. Snipes is free on bond while he appeals the convictions and his three-year prison sentence to the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta.

A federal judge last year said Snipes could travel only to London and Bangkok for work on the movies "Gallowwalker" and "Chasing the Dragon."

Federal prosecutors said Snipes traveled 2,000 miles from Thailand to Dubai to attend the party.

"Defendant Snipes abused the Court's trust, and did so in a very public way," the U.S. Attorney's Office said in its motion. "For that reason alone, the Court should deny his current request for international travel."

The federal prosecutors also asked that Snipes' bond be revoked pending the appeal.

The motion came in response to a request by Snipes to travel in April to Africa for a reshoot of several scenes from "Gallowwalker." The actor also asked permission to go to Italy from May to August to film another movie, "Game of Death."

"It is essential that Mr. Snipes complete this project to satisfy his civil tax liabilities and provide for his family," his attorneys said in the filing.

Snipes' attorney, Daniel Meachum, declined comment.



Snipes



Armed man arrested at 'DWTS' studio

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A restraining order has been issued against a man authorities say tried to break onto the set of "Dancing With the Stars" to meet Shawn Johnson.

Court records show an order was issued against Robert O'Ryan, who was arrested by Los Angeles police on Tuesday. According to documents that accompanied the restraining order application, O'Ryan was stopped by security



Johnson

celebrity contestants on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

She is "in fear of her life," her parent's attorney wrote in a restraining order application.

Her parents requested and were granted the restraining order on Wednesday. A hearing on whether to grant a lengthy restraining order will be held on April 14.

O'Ryan, 34, is being held on \$35,000 bail on suspicion of carrying a loaded firearm in public.

Court records do not indicate whether he has a lawyer.

The records state that he told security guards and police that he packed up all his belongings and traveled to California from Florida in the hopes of being with Johnson.

A report by security guards at CBS Studios states that O'Ryan was carrying an expired concealed weapons permit.

Piven arbitration hearings set for June 8-9

NEW YORK (AP)—The dispute between the Broadway producers of "Speed-the-Plow" and Jeremy Piven is officially on to its next act—arbitration. In a statement, the show's pro-



Piven

ducers said Wednesday the case will be heard June 8-9 in New York by George Nicolau, a professional arbiter. It follows a grievance hearing held last month at Actors' Equity Association in which a committee composed of five Equity members and five members of The Broadway League, which represents the producers, did not resolve the dispute.

Piven abruptly left the revival of the David Mamet play

statement that they were preparing their case, and "in connection with that, have requested a wide range of relevant information from Mr. Piven relating to his claims that an alleged illness required him to leave the show."

Among the information requested, the statement said, were "medical records and documentation of Mr. Piven's activities both during and after the run of the show."

Adam Lambert hits all the right notes on 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Adam Lambert showed his softer side on "American Idol," earning a standing ovation for his smooth performance of "The Tracks of My Tears."

Guest mentor Smokey Robinson, who originally performed the classic song with the Miracles, rose to his feet after watching the 26-year-old theater actor hit all the right notes during Wednesday's Motown-themed installment of the "Fox" singing competition.

Lambert, who's from Los Angeles, ditched his rocker duds for a sleek silver suit and smoothed his black hair back into an Elvis-style pompadour.

Judge Simon Cowell said

In this image released by Fox, "American Idol" contestant Adam Lambert is shown.

Lambert delivered the night's best performance and became a star in his eyes. Fellow judge Kara Dioguardi agreed, saying Lambert showed "true artistry."

The four judges were also equally impressed by the vocal stylings of Allison Iraheta, Matt Giraud and Kris Allen. Cowell liked Allen's cover of "How Sweet It Is" but said the 23-year-old married heartthrob from Conway, Ark., needs to show more swagger and confidence.

Lil Rounds and Danny Gokey scored mixed reviews for their respective renditions of "Heat Wave" and "Get Ready." Cowell told Rounds, 24, of Memphis, Tenn., she'd missed a potential "Idol"-defining "moment" by picking the wrong song (he'd rather hear the soul singer belt "I Heard It Through The Grapevine"). But the cranky judge had harsher

words for Gokey, deeming the 28-year-old crowd pleaser "clumsy and amateurish."

Michael Sarver and Megan Joy had a tougher time on stage. Judges slammed Sarver's cover of "Ain't Too Proud To Beg." Even sugary-sweet Paula Abdul chimed in, comparing the 27-year-old oil rig worker from Jasper, Texas, to an old-school Vegas lounge act.

Joy, 23, of Sandy, Utah, was targeted for her shaky take on "For Once in My Life." Cowell called Joy's performance "horrible" while Randy Jackson declared it a "train wreck" and "mad crazy."

One of the 10 finalists will be sent packing on Thursday's elimination show—unless judges act on the new rule that allows them to save a favorite contestant they feel has been unfairly booted by voting viewers.

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\$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN \$5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

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For Friday, March 27 through Tuesday, March 31 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS



NOW SHOWING



Monsters vs. Aliens



Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tues 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie

Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynolds' car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantonium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.



Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:25
Mon and Tues 4:20 7:25

Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx

Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.



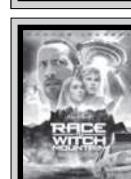
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10
Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10

Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne

Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Knowing

In 1958, as part of the dedication ceremony for a new elementary school, a group of students is asked to draw pictures to be stored in a time capsule. But one mysterious girl fills her sheet of paper with rows of apparently random numbers instead. Fifty years later, a new generation of students examines the capsule's contents and the girl's cryptic message ends up in the hands of young Caleb Koestler.



Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Ciaraan Hinds

Action, Adventure • Rated PG

When I Met You

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20

KC Concepcion, Richard Gutierrez

Romance, Drama • Rated NR



Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15

Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Coiro

Horror • Rated R

Watchmen

Friday 4:00 7:05 10:15
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05
Mon and Tues 4:00 7:05

Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup

Action, Adventure • Rated R

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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www.gohollywood.com

Woman caring for dying friend begins to question her loyalty

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have known "Gloria" for two years. We met at work, hit it off immediately and became close friends. I love her dearly, and I'm devastated by what's happening to her. Gloria is dying of AIDS and now has a rare brain infection that has caused her to lose most of her faculties. She goes in and out of dementia, and her prognosis is two months.

I have been by Gloria's side so frequently that her family has "adopted" me. I help with her care and am the only one of her friends and co-workers who has visited since she took this turn.

My problem is, since I have been around Gloria's family, I have learned that nearly everything she has ever told me is untrue. She has flat-out lied about many things—big and small—that weren't even necessary to lie about. I feel like I don't know my friend at all and never did.

As sad as I am to see Gloria suffering and dying, I am hurt and angry that I was repeatedly deceived by someone I thought was my friend. I keep telling myself it shouldn't matter now, but the more the truth comes out, the harder it is for me to go over there and help.

How can I get past this, forgive Gloria and get back to the business of helping her in her final weeks?

WOUNDED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR WOUNDED: People lie for many reasons. Some of them do it because they are ashamed to tell the truth. Others lie out of fear or to gain an advantage, and some people do it because they can't help themselves. But somewhere in the tapestry of lies that this poor woman wove is a part of her authentic self. It is the part that made you identify with her in the first place.

What you are doing for Gloria now is both generous and emotionally wrenching. You do not deserve the "payoff" for your efforts to be spending the rest of your life resenting her for her shortcomings. You are giving her one of the most important gifts a person can give to another, but it is one that you are also giving to yourself. If you remember that, you will have no regrets.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a widow living on a fixed income. From time to time various relatives have moved in with her. They offer limited financial assistance, but none appear inclined to keep the house in good repair.

I have gone beyond my financial limits to help Mama with emergencies, such as paying the light bill and making repairs to her house. My husband and I also clean up and do yard work over there. I am not an only child, but my siblings do not feel inclined to help out.

Yesterday, Mama again asked me for financial help to make repairs to the house. Did I mention there are four other people living there? While I never resent helping my mother, I sometimes do resent struggling to pay for upkeep and repairs to a home while other able-bodied adults living there benefit from my hard work. They are freeloading off my generosity.

Should I continue paying for my mother's house and mine? I have offered several times to let her move in with me, but she can't bear to give up her home.

FEELING USED IN GEORGIA

DEAR FEELING USED: It's time for you to have a heart-to-heart talk with your mother and your siblings and explain that you are no longer willing to shoulder this responsibility all by yourself. Tell her that if she's going to receive further help from you, she must either inform her "houseguests" they must pony up and contribute financially and with the chores, or allow you to tell them on her behalf. You are all adults, and it's time that everyone started acting like it. Please understand that unless you are willing to draw the line, nothing will change.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Mabius just not that into 'Ugly Betty' pairing

NEW YORK (AP)—Love is in the air this season on "Ugly Betty."

If you read message boards and fan Web sites, many viewers of the ABC comedy are rooting for what may seem an unlikely couple: Betty and her ladies man boss, Daniel Meade.

There are even montages of their scenes together set to romantic music on YouTube.

Despite the hype, Eric Mabius, who plays Meade, says the hookup won't happen if he has anything to say about it. "That would be the equivalent of us jumping

ing the shark," the 37-year-old says.

Betty and her playboy boss have gotten romantic in other international versions of the show and Mabius says it's been the swan song for those productions.

"In all the other series ... they get married and the show ends! I'm not too excited about that idea!"

Versions of the show have aired in more than one dozen countries worldwide.

"Ugly Betty," now in its third season, airs Thursdays at 8 p.m. EDT on ABC.



In this March 6, 2009 file photo, actor Eric Mabius, from ABC's "Ugly Betty," attends a special screening of "I Love You, Man" in New York.

Merengue star Crespo accused of sex act on plane

MIAMI (AP)—Merengue star Elvis Crespo is being investigated after a woman said she saw him performing a sex act on an airplane en route from Houston to Miami, according to Miami-Dade County police.

The Grammy winner was masturbating in view of other passengers Thursday, prompting the plane's captain to radio the Miami International Airport's air traffic control tower, the police report said.

Officers interviewed Crespo upon his arrival but did not arrest him. No charges have been filed.

When asked by police at the airport about the accusation, the 37-year-old Puerto Rican singer said: "I don't recall doing that."

A message left by The Associated Press Wednesday for his publicist, Mayna Ne-



varez, was not immediately returned.

Because the incident took place over U.S. air space, the FBI is also investigating. Messages left for the FBI office in Miami also were not immediately returned.

According to the police report, 52-year-old Patricia Perea of Canyon Gate, Texas, told police she was sitting next to the singer of the hit song "Suavemente." She said that about 15 minutes after the plane left Houston, Crespo covered himself with a blanket and began to masturbate, then exposed himself.

In this Aug. 29, 2007 file photo, singer Elvis Crespo looks on during the Latin Grammy Award nominations announcement in Miami Beach, Fla.

Oscars: 82nd annual awards show to air March 7

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Oscars will be presented a little later next year.

The 82nd Annual Academy Awards will air live on ABC from the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles on March 7 to avoid coinciding with the Winter Olympics, said Leslie Unger, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The 2010 Winter Games are scheduled

Feb. 12-28.

This year's Oscars telecast, hosted by Hugh Jackman, aired Feb. 22.

For many years, until 2004, the awards ceremony was held at the end of March.

"It has been in February since then, except for one year, in 2006, where the circumstances were the same as next year, to not coincide with the closing cere-

nies of the Winter Olympics," Unger said Wednesday.

Nominations ballots will be mailed to members Dec. 28 and nominations polls will close Jan. 23.

Nominations will be announced Feb. 2.

"In terms of the nominating process, that puts another week in the schedule for members to see movies," Unger said.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

People: Family friend says Richardson was donor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—People.com is reporting that Natasha Richardson's family has donated the actress's organs to save other patients' lives. Citing a "family friend" it did not name, the celebrity Web site said Richardson's family had requested her organs be donated after she was taken off life support last week. The report did not say whether any patient had received them. Alan Nierob, publicist for Richardson's husband Liam Neeson, said he had no information on the matter. Richardson died March 18 of a head injury that caused bleeding on the brain after a fall during a beginners' ski lesson in Montreal two days before. She was buried at a private ceremony in upstate New York over the weekend.

Actress who played Winnie Cooper marries composer

NEW YORK (AP)—The actress who played Winnie Cooper on "The Wonder Years" has gotten married. Danica McKellar married composer Mike Verta in a ceremony Sunday in the California seaside town La Jolla. McKellar's publicist confirmed marriage on Wednesday. It was first reported by People magazine. The 34-year-old actress and the 36-year-old Verta began dating in 2001 and were engaged last summer. McKellar last starred in the 2008 Sci-Fi Channel movie "Heatstroke," for which Verta composed the score. After studying mathematics at UCLA, McKellar wrote

two books, "Math Doesn't Suck" and "Kiss My Math." She famously played the elusive young love interest on "The Wonder Years," which aired on ABC from 1988 to 1993.

'CSI' actress Marg Helgenberger files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"CSI" star Marg Helgenberger has filed for divorce from her husband, fellow actor and Screen Actors Guild President Alan Rosenberg. She filed her petition Tuesday in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences. The couple got married in 1989 and have a son together. The 50-year-old Helgenberger plays Catherine Willows on CBS' highly rated drama, "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." She won a best supporting actress Emmy in 1990 for the series "China Beach." The 58-year-old Rosenberg was a regular on the TV series "LA Law" and "The Guardian," and received an Emmy nomination for a guest role on "ER." He is the current president of SAG, which remains embroiled in contract negotiations with Hollywood producers over a new contract for actors.

Danger zone for 'Grey's Anatomy' doctor

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a close call for someone on "Grey's Anatomy" Thursday night. Spoiler alert: Stop here if you want to be surprised when the show airs on ABC. For those who can't stand the suspense: a lethal secret is revealed when the show's Dr. Owen Hunt tries to strangle his love interest,

Cristina Yang, while they're both sleeping at the hospital. Other doctors intervene to save Yang, who's played by Sandra Oh. Kevin McKidd, who portrays Hunt, said that while his character was in Iraq, his platoon of surgeons came under attack and "he's the only survivor." There have been hints that Hunt suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. But until Thursday's episode, he hasn't disclosed the wartime injury to people at the hospital and he had cut off ties with people he knew before. "This is the catalyst," McKidd said, "that is going to push Owen to realize he's hit rock bottom" and needs professional help.

3 cops injured in shootout at Luciano's home

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Police say three patrolmen were injured during a shootout with a fugitive holed up inside reggae singer Luciano's home. A police statement says the hourlong standoff ended with the gunman, Andrew Senior, being killed at the Grammy-nominated singer's estate in the capital, Kingston. Two of the officers were in critical condition after Wednesday's shooting. Police say the Rastafarian singer, whose real name is Jephtha McClymont, was questioned but has not been charged with harboring a fugitive. Senior was a suspect in several killings. The 44-year-old Luciano is best known for the songs "Lord Give Me Strength" and "It's Me Again, Jah." His 2001 release, "A New Day," earned a Grammy nomination for best reggae album.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

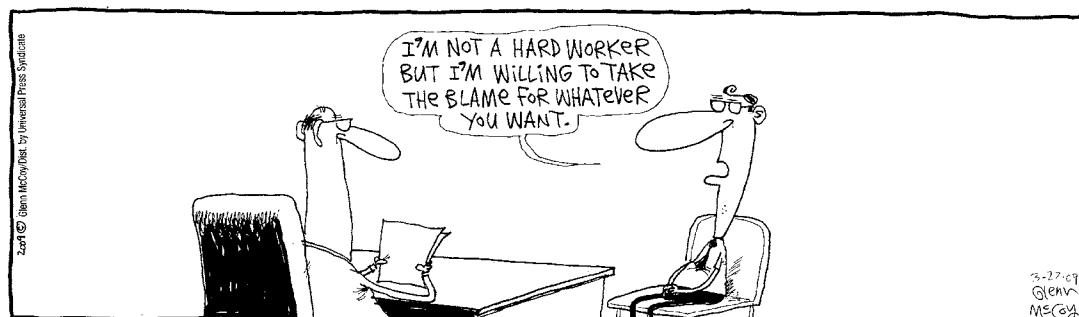
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



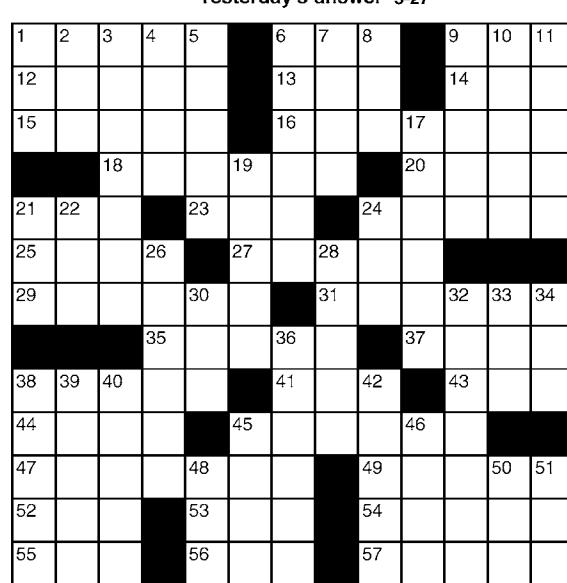
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Arab bigwig	DOWN	22	Onassis, to pals
1 Washer phase	41	— Poetica	1	Half a dance?	24 Commotion
6 Yon maiden	43	S.A. nation	2	Sweet potato	26 Bias against the elderly
9 Squabble	44	Dumbo's "wings"	3	Mountain-er	28 Preamble
12 Less infirm	45	For now	4	Building block	30 Mork's home planet
13 Pick a target	47	Snake handler?	5	Wear down	32 Room
14 Will Smith biopic role	49	River bend	6	Talks back to	33 — the ramparts ...
15 Pedro's pal	52	Matter-horn, for one	7	Sword handle	34 "Family Guy" daughter
16 Sleep Unassuming	53	GIs' entertainers	8	Flightless bird	36 Snowman's nose
20 Reed instrument	54	La Scala show	9	Shul VIP	38 Calyx component
21 "CSI" workplace	55	Allow	10	Bread spreads	39 Actress Berry
23 Preceding	56	Comprehended	11	Mess behind a desk	40 Blow one's top
24 Off somehow	57	"Two Women" Oscar winner	17	Second 19 Obliterate	42 Perry Como prop, often
25 Neighborhood			21	Restroom, for short	45 Mexican money
27 Away from others			22		46 Big fair, briefly
29 Late August births			23		48 Glitch
31 Sarge, e.g.			24		50 Tramcar load
35 Upright			25		51 Ashy
37 Quaker pronoun			26		52
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Yesterday's answer 3-27



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mariah Carey, 39; Quentin Tarantino, 46; Xuxa, 46; Michael York, 67

Happy Birthday: This can be an emotional year, full of change, desire and the courage to follow matters through to the end. Aggressive action will help you put things behind you that have clouded your vision. You can show how well you adapt to whatever change is thrown your way. Your truthfulness and drive will lead to your success. Your numbers are 7, 9, 13, 25, 28, 32, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be emotional about the things you feel strongly about—stand firm for your beliefs and the reforms you want to see happen. The way you go about things will set the stage. Refrain from being pushy. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is not the time to pussyfoot around. By showing everyone you mean business, you are likely to land something that will contribute to your future goals. Don't be too shy or fearful to ask for what you want. ☀☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your wit and charm to manipulate situations in your favor. Don't let someone else's disgruntled attitude get you down or hold you back. Look for any opening that will allow you to put your talents to work. ☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself, especially if sharing will cause friction. A loved one may be difficult to understand or to deal with if you happen to divulge secret information.

Don't promise anything you can't deliver. ☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll want to be where the action is. Take a trip or get involved in something you find interesting. Make demands that will give you strength and position for the future. You can begin a partnership but lay down ground rules. ☀☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Back away from anyone who is pushing you for a decision or cash. Do not get involved in a joint effort that leaves you doing all the work. Work alone so you get exactly what you deserve from the effort you give. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Things that were difficult to accomplish will now be easy. Refuse to let your lazy side take over. If you miss an opportunity now, you may not get another one for a long time. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may question someone you've been close to regarding a problem you have been facing. It may not be your fault that things are going the way they are. Say what's on your mind and clear the air. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take some time to do things with someone you love. Take on a challenge and you will not only win, you will convince others that you have a lot to offer in other areas of life. Socialize and let new relationships develop. ☀☀☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do not give in, back down or ignore issues that must be dealt with. It may not be

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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the nicest situation to be in but, if you don't take care of matters quickly, they will escalate. Saying no may be necessary in order to prove who's boss. ☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-improvement will impress the people you have known for a long time and attract someone with whom you will enjoy spending more time. Love is on the rise and a new way of seeing things is apparent. ☀☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be anxious and wanting to get everything done quickly. Patience will be required. Keep busy but don't expect others to feel the same need or urge to get things done that you do. Don't be pushy. ☀☀

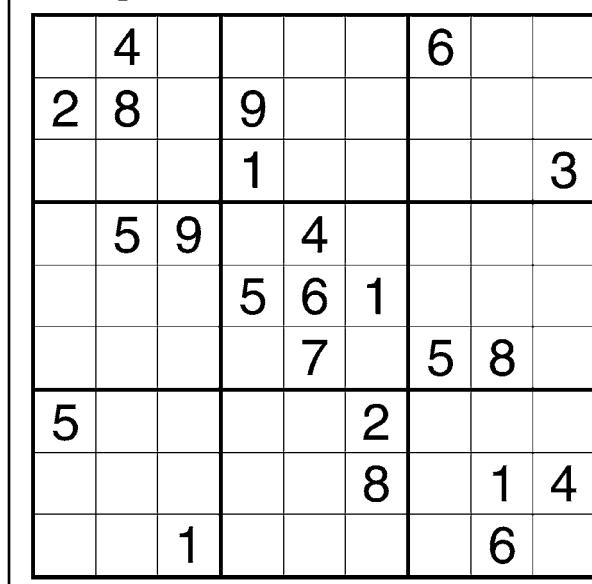
Birthday Baby: You stand tall, regardless of what you are up against. You are strong, steadfast and courageous and will never take a back seat to anyone.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

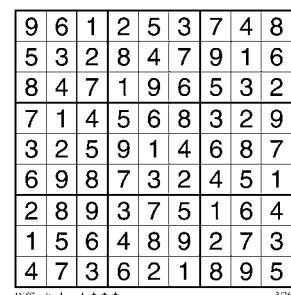
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COBB SALAD

C	C	H	O	K	C	A	N	S	N	E	T	A	L	P
P	H	I	S	D	L	H	T	O	E	L	L	C	W	G
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S	R	E	B	I	F	T	R	O	F	E	U	Q	O	R

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3/27

Avocado, Bacon, Blend, Bowl, Chicken, Chicory, Chopped, Clove, Cold, Corn, Creation, Crisp, Crumb, Diced, Diet, Eggs, Fiber, Gable, Garden, Garlic, Garnish, Grated, Grauman, Greens, Ingredients, Juice, Lemon, Lettuce, Menu, Onion, Peel, Pieces, Plate, Recipe, Restaurants, Roquefort, Salt, Sauce, Slice, Snack, Sodium, Sprinkle, Strips, Watercress, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Late

SALE! The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the grade-level matches what you've come to expect. Order 33 postage-free books for \$1.80 each. Send to: Wonderword, 113 Waianae St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free: 1-800-842-8480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,) CIVIL Plaintiff,) ACTION NO.) 02-0007 - v -) SIXTH MARIAN A. CARAYOAN,) AMENDED Defendants.) NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to and Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 10, 2002, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 008 T 042, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands & Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1998, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 am., at the Superior Court, San Jose Village, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of February 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198 Attorney at Law P.O. Box 505301 First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg. Cor. Ghieghi St., Wischira Way Saipan, MP 96950 TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801 FAX: (670) 234-1251

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE) FCD-GU APPOINTMENT OF) CIVIL GUARDIANSHIP OF) ACTION NO.) TINA TRICIA LEPWACH,) 09-0170-FCD DIONISIO LEPWACH JR.,) AND STEVEN HAIN) LEPWACH,) Minor Children,) NOTICE OF HEARING By:) JULITA LEPWACH,) Petitioner.

Please take notice that the above-stated matter shall come on for hearing on the 4th day of May, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Superior Court on the petition of Julita Lepwach for her appointment as Guardian Ad Litem for minor children Tina Tricia Lebwach (d.o.b. 09/30/2009) born on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Those wishing to be heard on this matter, please contact Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, or appear at the Commonwealth Court at the above-stated date and time.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

PACIFIC RIM INTERNATIONAL 2F MACARANAS BLDG., BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN

HOMES:
AGAT: 3-bed, 3.5 ba, office, 2-story, 3,000 ft, Jacuzzi tub, many upgrades, ocean views...\$350,000
MT. TAPOCHAU: 5-bed, 4-bath, 2,900 ft, unfinished interior, panoramic ocean views...\$220,000
PAPAGO: 3-bed, 2-ba, 2-story, pool, Jacuzzi, 1,500 sqm lot, central a/c, etc...\$179,900
SAN ANTONIO: 5-bed, 3.5 ba, 2-story, 2,650 ft, newly renovated, plus 1,700 ft aux. bldg...\$139,000
ANAKS CONDO: 2-bed, 1.5 ba, 1,250 ft, pool, tennis court, stand-by power, filtered water, etc...\$100,000
KOBLERVILLE: 3-bed, 2-ba, 1,216 ft, plus 2-bed guesthouse, newly renovated...\$69,000
DENNI: 3-bed, 1-ba, fully concrete, 800 sqm lot...\$50,000

COMMERCIAL:
CAPITOL HILL: 60-unit apartment/commercial complex w/ \$300K annual net income...\$3.5 million
SAN VICENTE: 20-unit apartment bldg., 3-story, 30,000 sqm lot, ocean views...\$650,000
SOUTH GARAPAN: 28,800 ft retail/warehouse bldg., beach road frontage...call for price

FORECLOSURES:
CHALAN KANOA: 4-unit apartment, 7-bed, 4-ba, 2,350 ft, concrete, near CK post office...\$75,000
KAGMAN: 2-bed, 1-ba, concrete, ocean views...\$45,000
ROTA: Three bldgs. w/4,500 ft in Sinapalo, plus 24,999 sqm lot w/ocean views near airport...\$83,500
TINIAN: Four 3-bedroom homes, two in village, two w/hillside ocean views...\$145,000

LAND:
PUERTO RICO: 5,234 sqm, near port of Saipan, Managaha views, paved road access...\$130,850
MT. TAPOCHAU: 2,999 sqm, cleared and graded for development, ocean and sunset views...\$70,000

For information on these, and other available real estate, contact:

TIM GOODWIN
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**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands****Capital Improvement Program - Office of the Governor**

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2402 • Fax.: (670) 664-2408

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ09-GOV-062**
Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Conceptual Study

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Office of Capital Improvement (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting Statements of Qualifications for the provision of civil engineering services for the conceptual examination of alternative methods to resolve the Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Issues.

The Commonwealth seeks engineering services to identify and analyze the various alternatives for control of pollutants being discharged onto the beaches from the Garapan Tourist District. Analysis should begin with a review of existing data and previous analysis and build upon this base. Specifically, previous work entitled "Field Investigations and Conceptual Alternative Development" by the engineering firm of Winzler & Kelly (November 2004) should be consulted. Additional documentation should be reviewed in order to quantify and qualify storm water in the Garapan Tourist District. Information gained from examination of existing data should then be used to identify and provide conceptual examination of alternatives for treatment and control of storm water in this area. This examination should identify estimated costs, permitting requirements, and treatment and control parameters. This information will be used by the Commonwealth to make decisions on selection of design. Specific details concerning project requirements are identified in the scope of work.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements ("Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements") at the Office of Capital Improvement 1356 Mednilla Ave. Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements. A pre-proposal conference is schedule for this RFQ on March 18, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Office of Procurement & Supply.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. Five copies of qualifications should be submitted to the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 in a sealed envelope marked "Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Study Qualifications, RFQ09-GOV-062"

Qualifications must be received prior to noon of April 13, 2009 ("Closing Date") from individuals or firms residing within the Commonwealth. Individuals or firms residing outside the Commonwealth may receive an additional five (5) calendar days from the Closing Date for receipt of their qualifications, upon filing a notice of intent to submit qualifications ("Notice of Intent") with the Division of Procurement & Supply by 11:00 a.m. local time April 6, 2009. Notice of Intent may be transmitted in any of the following forms: direct delivery; transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515; or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com; however, the individual or firm transmitting a Notice of Intent bears all risk of proper functioning of equipment. For proposer's located outside the CNMI who have filed a Notice of Intent, all required documents must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of the foreign country no later than the Closing Date and must be received no later than five calendar days after the Closing Date.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following factors:

1. Proposed technical approach	35%
2. Prior experience in storm water design	20%
3. References	10%
4. Interview	35%

Interviews will be conducted with the individuals who are determined to have the most appropriate qualifications for the needs of the Commonwealth.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) with local matching funds. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the government. All submitted documents shall become the property of the Commonwealth.

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS****PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID

ITB09-GOV-079

Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 – CIP Office

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of Government Building No. 1353 CIP Office, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available on March 27, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on April 07, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 07, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-079"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, April 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time April 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 13, 2009 and must be received no later than April 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 23, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on April 14, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES**
AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Replacement of the Saipan International Airport's Public Address System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails design, supply and installation of a complete public address (PA) system at the entire international terminal of the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. **Only proposers that responded to the "Request for Interest" and attended the pre-proposal conference of February 27, 2009 will be eligible to submit proposals.**

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Public Address System Replacement – Design/Build Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest:
2. Design and Installation Timeline
3. Project Approach;
4. D-B Construction Team;
5. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
6. Available resources to accomplish the project;
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
8. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams. Project approach, timeline and cost must be within the parameters of the established Statement of Work (SOW). Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for design and installation	30%
2. D-B Installation time frame (Critical and must be submitted with the Request for Proposal Package. The work days are calendar days.)	25%
3. Qualifications of the principals(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
5. Project Approach	10%

The project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 9, 2009

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services of the Saipan International Airport's Backup Generator System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services and operation of its two (2) 1.8 megawatt Caterpillar generators and ASCO controls at the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 25, 2009

Magic switch: Orlando bounces Boston from 2nd



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Dwight Howard blocked a potential go-ahead layup by Paul Pierce with 3.8 seconds left, and the Orlando Magic clinched their second straight Southeast Division title with an 84-82 win over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

Howard had 24 points and 21 rebounds as the Magic (53-18) bumped Boston (54-19) by percentage points for second in the Eastern Conference behind Cleveland. Orlando remains five games back of Cleveland for the conference lead with 11 games left. The Magic took the division title with Atlanta's loss to San Antonio.

Pierce hit a jumper to cut Orlando's lead to 83-82 with 1:27 left, but the Celtics couldn't make up the difference without Kevin Garnett, who was limited to 16 minutes as Boston continues to work him back in the lineup from a right knee strain. Pierce then missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it for Boston.

Rashard Lewis had 21 points, and Hedo Turkoglu added 13 points for the Magic, who nearly blew a 16-point lead before holding on for their fourth straight win and 11th in their past 13 games. The Magic were held to just 14 points in the final period.

Pierce had 26 points, and Ray Allen added 16 points for the Celtics, who snapped their four-game winning streak.

Cavaliers 98, Nets 87

At Cleveland, LeBron James and these Cleveland Cavaliers have risen to the top.

James scored 22 points with 11 assists and made all the right moves in the closing minutes as the too-tough-at-home Cavaliers set a franchise record with their 58th win—and 10th straight—by beating the New Jersey Nets 98-87 on Wednesday night.

With 11 games left in the regular season, the Cavs already have surpassed the club mark of 57 wins shared by the 1988-89 and 1991-92 teams. Also, James joined Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson as the only players in NBA history to post 2,000 points, 500 rebounds and 500 assists in a season at least four times.

Cleveland, which trailed 82-81 with less than 4 minutes left, also improved to an NBA-best 33-1 at home.

Vince Carter scored 20 for the Nets.

Wizards 95, Bobcats 93

At Washington, Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, Nick Young had 23 and short-handed Washington held off Charlotte.

Mike James and Andray Blatche added 15 points each for the Wizards, had only eight players available and rallied from a 20-point deficit.

Gerald Wallace led Charlotte with 21 points and 11 rebounds, but missed a potential tying free throw with 6.5 seconds left.

The biggest key to the outcome: the Bobcats went only 19-for-30 at the foul line.

Spurs 102, Hawks 92

At Atlanta, Tony Parker scored 42 points and San Antonio, playing without Tim Duncan, ended Atlanta's eight-game home winning streak.

Parker enjoyed his second-best scoring total of the season. He set a



AP
Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, left, celebrates after blocking a shot by Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) late in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

career high with 55 points at Minnesota on Nov. 5.

Joe Johnson had 30 points, including Atlanta's first 11 points of the fourth quarter, but he had too little help as the Hawks suffered their first loss at Philips Arena since March 1. No other Atlanta player scored in the period until Mike Bibby's 3-pointer with 1:54 remaining and Josh Smith added a jam 30 seconds later to cut the Spurs' lead to 96-90.

Parker, who had 10 assists, answered with six straight points for the Spurs.

Pacers 90, Heat 88

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 28 points and Indiana continued its home-court mastery of cold-shooting Dwyane Wade and Miami.

Wade, the NBA scoring leader at almost 30 points a game, scored 21 but was just 5-of-24 from the field and missed a shot at the buzzer that would have tied it.

Indiana trailed by four early in the fourth but took control with a 13-1 run midway through the quarter and held on for their 17th straight win at home against the Heat. Wade has never won in Conseco Fieldhouse.

Granger had seven points and T.J. Ford six during Indiana's run, and a 3-pointer by Granger gave the Pacers their biggest lead at 90-80 with under 4 minutes remaining.

76ers 96, Timberwolves 88

At Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young scored 29 points and Andre Miller had 15 to lead Philadelphia past Minnesota.

The Sixers are the worst 3-point shooting team in the NBA and hadn't made one all game until the fourth quarter. Andre Iguodala and Royal Ivey hit two apiece in the quarter to open up a double-digit lead and led Philadelphia to its third straight win.

Rodney Carney scored 21 points and Craig Smith had 20 for the Timberwolves, whose new lineup couldn't help them avoid their sixth straight loss.

Raptors 115, Bucks 106

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 23 points, and Chris Bosh and Jose Calderon had double-doubles to lead the Raptors.

Bosh had 18 points and 14 rebounds, Calderon added 19 points and 11 assists to help the Raptors win consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 22-24. Shawn Marion scored 17 points, Anthony Parker had 15 and Jason Kapono 14.

Toronto made a season-high 12 3-pointers, including six in a game-changing second quarter. Bargnani, Calderon, Kapono and Parker all finished with three 3s.

Richard Jefferson shook off a recent shooting slump, going 10-for-18 and scoring 22 points for the Bucks, who

lost their third straight. Charlie Bell scored 20 points and Ramon Sessions had 18.

Clippers 140, Knicks 135, OT

At New York, Mike Taylor more than doubled his career high with 35 points, Zach Randolph added 33 against his former team, and the Los Angeles Clippers outlasted New York.

Al Thornton scored 21 and Eric Gordon had 19 for the Clippers, who snapped a nine-game road losing streak. Seemingly on the way to being run off the floor while surrendering 44 points in the first quarter, they quickly erased a huge early deficit and finished shooting 58 percent from the field.

And for the second time this season, they benefited from a late technical foul on New York's Al Harrington after a dunk that had given the Knicks a three-point lead in the final half-minute of regulation.

Harrington finished with 38 points for the Knicks, who matched a season high with their sixth straight loss.

Nuggets 101, Hornets 88

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and Denver snapped New Orleans' three-game winning streak.

Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, hitting four of his five 3-pointers in the second half to help the Nuggets pull away after the game was tied with a little over 7 minutes to go in the third quarter.

Chris Paul had 19 points and 13 assists, and David West scored 18 points for New Orleans, which dropped a game behind Denver in the Western Conference standings.

Mavericks 128, Warriors 106

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry came back from a four-day break as sharp as ever and J.J. Barea led a late surge, helping Dallas cruise past Golden State.

Nowitzki and Terry were a combined 15-of-18 in the first half, keeping Dallas well ahead once the game was just a few minutes old. Golden State managed to get within four points late in the third quarter, but then Barea got rolling.

Nowitzki and Terry each finished with 26 points, and Barea had 20 as the Mavericks shot 58.5 percent and scored their most points of the season.

Anthony Morrow was 10-of-11 for 29 points, his most since November, and Monta Ellis scored 22 for the Warriors.

Suns 118, Jazz 114

At Phoenix, Grant Hill scored 26 points, including a tiebreaking jumper in the lane with 31.5 seconds remaining, to lift Phoenix to its season-high sixth straight victory.

The Suns remained three games behind the Dallas Mavericks in their push for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Each team has 11 games left, with one game between the teams April 5 at Dallas.

The Jazz dropped 1 1/2 games behind the first-place Denver Nuggets in the Northwest Division.

Matt Barnes, with 18 points in the second half, and Jason Richardson each had 21 points for the Suns.

Deron Williams led Utah with 25 points and 10 assists.

Armstrong gets plate, 12 screws in collarbone

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — His broken collarbone surgically mended, Lance Armstrong is on the clock. The seven-time Tour de France champion will be back on his bike in days even though the bone may take eight to 12 weeks to fully mend. Armstrong must resume training almost immediately if he's to meet his goal of racing in the Giro d'Italia, which begins May 9.

The 37-year-old American cyclist also plans to ride in the Tour de France this July.

Surgeon Doug Elenz inserted a stainless steel plate and 12 screws to stabilize the broken collarbone on Wednesday, two days after Armstrong crashed in the first stage of the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon race in northern Spain.

"Lance is going to be a patient who is going to push the envelope," Elenz said. "This first week we're going to make Lance take it easy ... ask Lance not to do a whole lot."

After taking a few days off, Armstrong will be allowed to ride a stationary bike. Then doctors will monitor his arm strength, range of motion in his shoulder, as well as his pain, to decide what kind of training he can do. Doctors don't want him to strain his upper body in any way for a while.

Just hours after the surgery, Armstrong was posting to his Twitter feed, reassuring fans.

"Howdy folks. Made it thru. Took longer than we thought. Playing with my kids right. Making me feel A LOT better," he wrote.

Although doctors initially thought it was a simple fracture, Elenz said X-rays showed it was broken in four pieces.

Rating the three-hour surgery on a scale of one to 10, from easiest to most difficult, he called Armstrong's procedure an 8.

"This was a challenge," Elenz said. "It was a hard case."

Elenz said the 12 screws were more than he might normally use, but he felt they were needed knowing Armstrong's goals. The surgery to stabilize the bone required about a 5-inch incision and the steel plate measures about the same length, said Elenz, who added it's likely doctors will someday remove the plate.

Armstrong returned to elite cycling this year after a 3-year layoff. When he announced his comeback last September, the cancer survivor said his primary goal was to spread his Livestrong message as he raced around the world.

During a conference call Tuesday night, he said he was frustrated the injury came just as he was getting into top shape. He was among the top 10 riders for much of the race Monday before he crashed about 12 miles from the end of the stage.

Now, he's determined to get back to the front.

"I think the Giro is still very doable," Armstrong said. "This is definitely a setback, no doubt. It's the biggest setback I've ever had in my cycling career, so it's a new experience for me."

Goodell wants longer NFL regular season



DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—More games that count, perhaps as early as August 2011? That's exactly what NFL commissioner Roger Goodell wants.

There are several hurdles before the league can expand its regular season from 16 to 17 or 18 games. Among them is reaching a new collective bargaining agreement with the players' union.

Still, the commissioner hopes to present a proposal to the owners in May after the matter was discussed at length this week at the owners meetings.

"It's possible that we could vote in May, but we want to have core discussions on this," Goodell said Wednesday. "Anytime you have change, there is some reluctance. But it's clear we don't need four preseason games anymore."

Goodell said the league has not seriously discussed the subject with its broadcast partners. He couldn't imagine them not being interested in more meaningful games.

"I think the quality of NFL programming, that every one of our network partners would say, if they have the chance to have more regular-season programming, they'd be interested in it," Goodell said. "A key point is the

fans also recognize players they want to see are not in those preseason games; that's why they are not attractive. They want to see those players play."

As for those players and their union, Goodell recognizes an expanded schedule will be part of CBA negotiations. Owners opted out of the current deal last year, and it expires after the 2010 schedule, which would be an uncapped season.

"Under the current agreement, additional regular-season games would not be covered," Goodell said. "I think our most important priority after we get done with our internal analysis is talking to our key partners, and that includes the players. I think we want to make sure that the right dialogue takes place before we make any final votes."

DeMaurice Smith, the NFLPA's incoming executive director, wants any decision that affects the players to happen collaboratively.

"His hope is that the concerns and interests of the players will be seriously considered," said George Atallah, a director at the public relations firm Qorvis Communications and a spokesman for Smith during his transition. "He was elected by the players to be their advocate on such issues and is more than

ready to serve them."

Among the issues team owners must discuss is when the regular season would begin; how many bye weeks would be scheduled; how deep into February the playoffs and Super Bowl would go; and when the offseason programs—including the combine and the draft—would be held.

Plus, where would the extra games be played, particularly with 17 of them?

One possibility, an idea Goodell and senior vice president of sales and marketing Mark Waller first mentioned several years ago, would be 17 neutral-site games, including some aboard. That would enable the league to step up its efforts internationally, a particular goal of Goodell's.

"There's been some discussion about that," Goodell said. "That's been one of the appealing features of converting preseason games into regular-season games is it gives you more inventory, more games that you can take to neutral sites, either internationally or domestically. So that is a compelling feature."

Another option would be having one conference play nine home games during a season, and the other conference do so the next year.

NFL BRIEFS

Police: Stallworth says warned man before impact

MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth said he flashed his car's headlights to warn a pedestrian before fatally striking the man in Miami Beach last month, according to a report released by police. The report released Tuesday also said the pedestrian, 59-year-old Mario Reyes, wasn't in a crosswalk when Stallworth's Bentley hit him. According to the report, Stallworth told officers he flashed his lights to try to warn Reyes, a construction crane operator who was rushing to catch a bus after getting off work around 7:15 a.m. March 14. Police said Stallworth was driving about 50 mph in a 40 mph zone. They are investigating whether alcohol played a role in the accident. No charges have been filed against Stallworth pending the outcome of blood tests. A police diagram shows that Reyes was hit in the far left lane of the six-lane MacArthur Causeway—not in a nearby crosswalk. Stallworth stopped a few feet away. Police also released calls from three people who dialed 911 that morning.

Feds: Michael Vick illegally spent pension funds

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The U.S. Department of Labor filed complaints Wednesday accusing suspended NFL star Michael Vick of illegally spending about \$1.3 million in pension plan funds for his own benefit, including paying restitution ordered in his dog-fighting conspiracy case. The department filed the complaints in federal district and bankruptcy courts the same day Vick left a federal lockup in Kansas, apparently bound for Virginia to appear at a bankruptcy hearing next week. Vick was at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City late Wednesday afternoon. Mark Lichtenstein, one of Vick's bankruptcy attorneys, declined to comment on both the Labor Department allegations and the details of Vick's apparent temporary move to Virginia for the April 2 hearing. The Labor Department said Vick made a series of prohibited transfers from a pension plan sponsored by MV7, a celebrity marketing company owned by the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback. The department alleges that Vick violated his duties as trustee of a pension plan that covered nine current or former MV7 employees.

Calhoun says UConn to probe recruiting allegations

By DAVE COLLINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said he and the university are looking into a Yahoo! Sports report claiming the

school broke NCAA rules during the recruitment of former basketball player Nate Miles, but added Miles is not at UConn and his team remains focused on the NCAA tournament.

Yahoo reported Wednesday that Miles, a 6-7 guard from Toledo, Ohio, was given lodging, transportation, meals and representation by

sports agent Josh Nochimson, and a UConn assistant coach knew about the relationship between the player and the agent. The story cited interviews, documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws and other sources.

Nochimson, a former student manager for UConn, was considered a

representative of UConn's athletic interests by the NCAA and was prohibited from having contact with Miles or giving him anything of value, Yahoo reported.

Records also show that five UConn coaches called Nochimson and text-messaged him at least 1,565 times during a nearly two-year period before and after Miles' recruitment in 2006 and early 2007.

Calhoun had 16 of those communications, Yahoo reported.

Miles was expelled from UConn in October without ever playing a game for the Huskies after he was charged with violating a restraining order in a case involving a woman who claimed he assaulted her. He is now attending the College of Southern Idaho and plays for the school's basketball team.

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Next to Subway

PIC Tennis Championships kicks off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Sixteen matches will be played at the start of the hostilities in the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships today at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The first three games in the first weekend of the two-weekend competition will feature players in the men's 3.0 singles and boys' 14-and-under division.

Jorge Bartolata will duel Vener Urena in the men's 3.0 singles at 3:30pm on Court 2, while top seed Rafael Jones will test the mettle of Amani Sakano in the opening round in the boys' 14-and-under on Court 3. In another 14-and-under singles match, Dylan Ackerman will collide with Angelo Jones on Court 4.

Four other boys' 14-and-under matches will be played today. Kennedy Izuka will take on Jun Myong, Daniel Park will meet John Cano, Lucas Nutting will battle Andrew Johnson, and Joel Jang will challenge Chris Cajigan. The boys' 14-and-under division has a 16-player draw.

In the men's 3.0, 12 players are entered and two more matches are set for today with Gabriel Colombo facing Nathan Nutting and Woo Hyun Kim squaring off with Ricardo Presinade.

In tonight's opening games in the men's 4.0 singles, which drew 12 players, Mike Jang will meet



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dong Min Lee, seen here in action in a local tournament last year, will play in the men's 4.0 singles division in the PIC tennis tournament.

Chung Sayon, S.H. Ham will duel Bong Gamab, Toshi Beltau will collide with Richard Asuncion, and Muna Gurung will play Dong Min Lee.

This year's PIC netfest will also have competitions in the men's and women's open singles, women's 4.0, girls' 14-and-under,

and boys and girls' 10-and-under.

Nicolas Son and W.S. Chang will play in the first game in the men's open singles today with the winner meeting Ji Hoon Heo in the semifinals. The other semis pair in the men's open singles will feature Jeff Race and Kirk Schuler.

The women's open has only three players in Thea Minor, Jodel Fernandez, and Lila Mailman.

Two games are set for the boys' 10-and-under tonight with J.P. Tamayo battling Steven Goodwin and Michael Ken challenging Kui Lee. Six more players are competing in the boys' 10-and-under

ing up points.

The 51-point win put Settsu in the title game against the winner of the MISO All-Stars-Chacha Oceanview Junior High School tiff, which was played yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

The title game in the girls' 14-and-under division will be played today at the MHS gym at 10:30am.

In the boys' 16-and-under division, Settsu almost made it to the championship match, as it led in the first half before losing the lead in the last one minute of the fourth quarter.

Tim Sula drilled six of the

Dolphins last 10 points to allow MHS to steal the win.

Setsu showed the Dolphins its own brand of basketball, getting a lot of movements from its players both on offense and defense, canning long distance jumpers, and sprinting for fast-break plays.

The visitors were ahead after the first quarter, 20-19, and increased their lead to as much as 10 points midway in the second canto, 38-28.

Unfortunately, the depleted lineup of Setsu failed to sustain its momentum in the second half when the Dolphins made a comeback.

MHS outscored Setsu, 21-12, in the third period to grab the lead, 56-55.

Sula, who had only two field goals after three quarters, took on the cudgels for the Dolphins in the payoff canto, firing nine of the team's 19 points to preserve the lead and steal the game.

The Dolphins will play Saipan Southern High School in today's title match at 9am. The Manta Rays advanced to the championship game after slipping past Kagman High School's Ayuyus, 93-86.

Girls 14

Settsu 93 – Hirose 18, Sakai

Trench Tech vs. Joel "Mushu" Pangelinan (1-0) of Team Combat in the 135-lb division;

■ Tara "Tarantula" Namauleg (1-0) vs. Kristy "The Tasty" Halstead (0-0) in the girls' 135-lb division;

■ John "The Jackhammer" Borja (2-4) of Predator Combat Team vs. Neil "The Lionheart" Taisacan (1-2) of Team Haga in the 195-lb division;

■ Swain "The Pain" Cangco

division, namely Carl Dela Cruz, Michael Jones, Moris Villanueva, Jun Myong, Clayton Izuka, and Colin Ramsey.

The girls' 10-and-under division has 10 players in Tiffany Madlangbayan, Mimi Sakano, Ami Tsukagosh, Anna Calvert, Tammy Ackerman, Sakura Imaya, Gabrielle Race, Carol Lee, Malika Miyawaki, and Emily Jones. Matches will start tomorrow with Madlangbayan meeting

NMITF holds Olympic distance race tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation will hold an Olympic-distance triathlon tomorrow, March 28, at Paupau Beach.

This event will serve as one of the tune-up races for local triathletes who are preparing for the upcoming Saipan Xterra Championship and Tagaman Triathlon next month.

This will be the third triathlon event to be staged since January following two Enticer races.

Tomorrow's event will consist of a 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike, and 10-km.

NMITF said that participants who wish to do the half-distance course could only do one lap for each stage.

The swim stage will be held in the Paupau lagoon, while the bike portion will be via the Bird Island Lookout and the Grotto with the run covering the part

12, Nakamori 11, Tokimoto 11, Aoki 9, Rika 9, Nakano 7, Inui 6, Hidari 6, Yauchi 2, Taguchi 2.

Hopwood 42 – Duenas 32, Reyes 8, Gases 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-4, 46-18, 53-28, 92-43

Boys 16

MHS 75 – Sula 14, Sarmiento 10, Chan 9, Hidalgo 8, Feria 7, Manalili 7, Ambalan 6, Crisostimo 6, Liberato 2.

Settsu 74 – Hidari 20, Kuroda 16, Yamamoto 14, Sakabuchi 11, Shinohara 10, Takahashi 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-20, 35-43, 56-55, 75-74.

(1-1) of Predator Combat Team vs. Victorino "The Hitman" Igital (3-0) of Team Zogai in the 205-lb division;

■ Independent fighter Jay "Tabi" Muna (3-4) vs. Kevin "Drop Baby" Esteves (1-1) of Marianas Elite in the 150-lb division; and

■ Leroy Sablan (3-2) of Marianas Elite vs. J.J. "The Mauler" Mality (1-4) of Team Pwang in the 150-lb division.

enbaugh went 3-for-3 with three runs. Tomas Camacho and Harry Nakamura added two apiece, while Keoni Lizama, Toby Fleming, and Marvin Ngeskuebi came up with one each.

Sakano and Tsukagoshi playing Calvert.

Only five players will be battling for the girls' 14-and-under division title. They are top seed Melody Johnson, Jean Bracken, Neghar Rastguy, Amy Arenovski, and Adele Hudkins.

All singles matches are expected to finish on Monday. Doubles matches will be played next weekend, from April 3 to 5, also at the PIC hard courts.

NMITF holds Olympic distance race tomorrow

north of Paupau.

Organizers are still determining the distance for the bike stage.

Registration will start at 6:30am and the race will kick off at 7am.

Mike Johnson of NMITF said they need volunteers to help direct traffic and handle time listing during the event.

"I need people to direct traffic at the road entrance and would like to have a couple of water stops. I would also like to have at least one kayak and timers," said Johnson. (*Nazario Rodriguez Jr.*)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	54	19	.740		
Philadelphia	37	33	.529	15	1/2
New Jersey	30	41	.423	23	
New York	28	43	.394	25	
Toronto	26	45	.366	27	

Central Division

	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	58	13	.817		
Detroit	34	36	.486	23	1/2
Chicago	34	38	.472	24	1/2
Milwaukee	31	41	.431	27	1/2
Indiana	30	42	.417	28	1/2

Southeast Division

	Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Orlando	53	18	.746		
Atlanta	42	30	.583	11	1/2
Miami	38	33	.535	15	
Charlotte	31	40	.437	22	
Washington	17	56	.233	37	

Western Conference

	Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	47	24	.662		
Houston	47	26	.644	1	
New Orleans	44	26	.629	2	1/2
Dallas	43	28	.606	4	
Memphis	17	53	.243	29	1/2

Northwest Division

	Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	46	26	.639		
Utah	44	26	.629	1	
Portland	44	27	.620	1	1/2
Oklahoma City	20	51	.282	25	1/2
Minnesota	20	52	.278	26	

Pacific Division

	Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-LA Lakers	56	14	.800		
Phoenix	39	31	.557	17	
Golden State	25	47	.347	32	
LA Clippers	18	54	.250	39	
Sacramento					

36 join Tsunami Saipan-ARC swim lessons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-six students completed the five-weekend swim lessons that Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and the American Red Cross-CMNI Chapter conducted at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The first session started on Feb. 14, while the last four took place on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 14, and March 21.

Tsunami Saipan Senior Team members Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Kai Staal, Marystar Welch, and Sarah Johnson shared their expertise on water safety and the basic strokes in swimming to 36 participants. Other Tsunami swimmers who helped in the swim lessons were Kaisei Toda, Kaitao Yana, Thea Minor, and Ashley Welch, and coaches Hiro Kimura, Val Welch, and Stan Good.

Tsunami Saipan's senior swimmers are certified as Red Cross water safety instructors and Red Cross life guards, and they conducted the five Saturday sessions in accordance with the American Red Cross Water Safety Program.

The program is designed to help increase safety wherever water sports



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers and coaches join 36 students for a group photo after the final session of the Tsunami Saipan-ARC swim lessons last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

are enjoyed. The American Red Cross Water Safety program also teaches easy-to-remember safety tips for pools, spas, water parks, lakes, rivers, and oceans. The course is ideal for parents, youth in grades 4 to 12, youth organizations, and campers, who participate in water-related activities. Nearly two million people learn to swim each year through the program.

Tamiko Winkfield, and Saipan

Swim Club coach Michael Villagomez and daughter Keanna teamed up with Tsunami Saipan swimmers and coaches in holding beginners and adults lessons to participants.

"Special thanks go to Mike and his daughter Keanna, and Tami Winkfield for their assistance in conducting the beginners group and adults lessons.

They are perennial favorites of the community for teaching swim lessons to the youngest students and adults, alike," said Good, adding that they had a student as young as five years old.

Good said they will be holding another series of swim lessons this summer with the date and venue to be announced later.

Besides teaching kids and adults the basics of swimming, Tsunami Saipan is conducting swim lessons to bring their swimmers closer to the community, especially to aspiring kid swimmers.

The club is also using the swim lessons to raise funds for the purchase of equipment, for sending Tsunami Saipan swimmers to off-island competitions, and for monthly fees at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

33 pairs to compete in IT&E doubles tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2009 I T & E Badminton Doubles Tournament

tournament will kick off this Saturday with 33 pairs entered in the initial offering of the year of Northern Marianas Badminton Federation.

The men's B division drew the most participants with nine tandems. The list include the pairs of Daniel Macario/Jorge Olanda, Jojo Savellano/Noli Santos, Mario Diola/Paul Navarro, Keno San Pablo/Aries Cordero, Andrew Galves/Victor Regis, June Pineda/Ariel Mariano, Rommel Vilavisa/Emil de Belen, Roger Vales/Efren Cadac, Rommel Catalma/Obert Aguilar,



Riza Cano serves while partner Alfred Acosta looks on during NMBF's badminton team tournament last year. This weekend, NMBF will be holding the IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

and Alfred Acosta/Edwin Maratas.

Men's A division has five duos, namely Macoi Aguda/Saul Gargallo, Hapi Gabriel/Robert Reyes, Edwin Montoya/Gary Bandoja, Lito Mendoza/Joseph Santos, and Geri Hibi/Eric Pena.

The women's B division title will be contested by eight pairs led by Loida Ito and Lucelle Lampera. Also on the list are the tandems of Lea Estinopo/Rose Lazaro, Shirley Kim/Angel Mae Ito, Anna Alvarez/June Padua, Marlene Peraja/Emily Vargas, Anna Rose Omori/Malou Mendoza, Marylyn Montano/Cheng Saturno, and Ingrid Sanchez/Cristy Villaflor.

The men's and women's C divisions have five pairs apiece.

Entered in the men's C division are the duos of Puy Macario/Chris Hilario, Rodwealth Espana/James Digno, Frank Villagomez/Ric Brien, Ezekiel Macario/Roding Domingo, and Luis Camacho/

Arnel Banzagale.

The pairs of Annette Ta/Malou Mendoza, Irene Santiago/Annette Quiambao, Ruby Gozon/Jenine Savellano, Dorie Pineda/Hazel Dela Santa, and Elna Curate/Merlie Tolentino will battle for the women's C title.

The men's A and men's and women's C divisions will have a double round-robin format, while the men's and women's B will be a single round robin affair. The Top 4 teams in each division will move to the crossover semifinals with the No. 1 squad meeting the No. 4 team for the first finals berth. The No. 2 and 3 squads will collide for the other finals ticket.

The doubles tournament will run until April 19 with matches to be played every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only. Games every Friday and Saturday will run from 6pm to 10pm, while Sunday's matches will begin from 2pm until 8pm.

For more information, contact Aguda at 286-0009, Gabriel at 287-4274, or Kim at 287-6750.

UFO caging eyes April 26 opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After a three-year hiatus, the United Filipino Organization is bringing back the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball League, which is tentatively set to kick off on March 26.

UFO president Olive Yana said that so far five teams have already shown interest in joining the 7th UFO Inter-Organization Basketball League. The list includes VisMinda, Samahang Illokano at Pangasinense, Bayani Association, MDX, and Samahang Manggawang Filipino.

Yana added the organizing committee met on Wednesday at the Filipino Workers Resource Center located at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe and discussed initial details for the opening.

Present at the meeting were UFO

commissioners Paul Madriaga and Melvin Malvar, VisMinda's Nel Atalig, SIP's Tony Soriano, and Leo Canedo of MDX and SMF.

"There are other organizations that had already expressed their intentions to participate in the league. We are hoping to have at least eight teams this year," Yana said. "We are inviting teams to join us to make this year's league more fun and interesting."

Yana said interested teams are encouraged to attend their second meeting on March 31 at 6pm at FWRC.

UFO last hosted the inter-organization caging in 2005 with SIP edging Cabalen in a best-of-three title series, 2-1. SIP won Game 1, 88-79, but failed to sweep the series when Cabalen bounced back in Game 2 with a 99-85 triumph. SIP finally wrapped up the series with a 95-86 victory, notching its fourth title in six years of joining the league.

For more information, contact Yana at oliveyana@yahoo.com or Malvar at mjmjalvar@yahoo.com.

After gaining the title, SIP players also won the most individual awards in the league.

Twelve teams joined the 2005-2006 edition of the UFO caging.

Edsel Mendoza was named Finals MVP, while Elmer Esdrelon made it to the Mythical Five, joining Mendoza, Andres "Jhun" Estolas of LIPS-Mobil, and Ronald Delos Reyes and Dalewin Cortez of Cabalen.

SIP sniper Bryan Flores was best in 3-point shooting, Jawn Joyner and Bing Marasigan of VisMinda were best in assist and free throw, respectively, Cortez was best in block shots, Chris Domingo of Cavite-Country House was best in steals, Marlon De Dios of MDX Amateur Radio-Armatech was best in rebounds, and Rowel Aranda of LIPS-Mobil was the top scorer for the season.

For more information, contact Yana at oliveyana@yahoo.com or Malvar at mjmjalvar@yahoo.com.

23rd Red Cross Walk this Saturday

The American Red Cross will hold its 23rd Annual Walkathon this Saturday, March 28. The starting line will be at the 4H Building along Beach Road in Susupe.

Registration fee will be \$15 that would entitle each participant a free T-shirt.

Walkers start at the designated starting point, then walk north toward the Garapan Fishing basin, then back to Susupe.

Drinks and sandwiches will be available at the start and finish points, and along the routes.

Organizers are requesting participants to observe directions from safety officers to avoid any untoward incidents that may harm themselves or other walkers.

To register, send e-mail to Ed Arriola at ed_ariola@tanholdings.com or call him at 233-8080 and ask for a signup sheet.



Signup forms will be delivered to your office, or you can pick up forms at the Executive Offices, 3rd Floor, TSL Plaza

Registrants must fill-up the form and start collecting pledges or make own pledge.

One T-shirt will be given to each person/form, no matter how much you may raise.

Submit the pledge form and the money raised to Arriola or to the American Red Cross on the day of the event to receive your T-shirt.

All walkers who could raise \$75 on their pledge forms will receive a free 2GB MP3 player/USB Flash Drive with FM Radio.

Several prizes will be given away courtesy of donors from the business community.

For more information contact the Red Cross Chapter at 234-3459. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

36 join Tsunami Saipan-ARC swim lessons

Thirty-six students completed the five-weekend swim lessons that Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter conducted at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

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40 FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

Saipan Tribune Sports

Magic switch: Orlando bounces Boston from 2nd

Dwight Howard blocked a potential go-ahead layup by Paul Pierce with 3.8 seconds left, and the Orlando Magic clinched their second straight Southeast Division title with an 84-82 win over the Boston Celtics.

36



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins edge visiting Japanese

Face Rays in friendship tourney finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Settsu Red Impulse's cagebelles showed too much class against Hopwood, while Settsu's boys team pushed the MHS Dolphins to the limit before falling short in the fourth quarter of their game yesterday in the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The female players of the visiting Japanese basketball club clobbered Hopwood Junior High School's Hilitai, 93-42, while Settsu's six-player boys squad lost to the Dolphins by a hair, 74-75.

Settsu had four players scoring in double figures with Miyu Hirose leading the way with 18 points. Ranko Sakai contributed with 12, while Hirai Nakamori and Shiro Tomimoto chipped in 12 apiece.

The visiting team from Osaka

See DOLPHINS on Page 38



Jets zoom past Lion King, 13-1

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Defending champion Jets continued their mastery over Kagman Lion King with a 13-1 win on Sunday in the Senior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

It was the Jets' third win in three meetings this year

against the Lion King and they are right on track to retaining the title.

Their current record is 9-1, bouncing back from the stigma of a 0-9 defeat to the Fielders last Saturday.

See JETS on Page 38

Jets pitcher Christopher Meyers waits for a pitch in the Jets' 17-1 win over the Lion King Sunday in the Senior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Baseball bizarro

By BOB COLDEEN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To my way of thinking, baseball is based on a set of completely logical rules. Nonetheless, some things don't add up, don't seem square or level. Call them mental screwballs.

A baseball catcher is the only player in sports who is positioned out of bounds and squats.

A golf ball is harder than a baseball. Then why is baseball called hardball? Shouldn't golf be called hardball?

The foul pole is always placed in fair territory. Why isn't it called a fair pole? Then why not place the foul pole in foul territory and if the ball hits it, then it is a foul ball?

A right handed batter stands in the left side of the batters box and a left handed batter stands in the right side of the batters box. Why is there no place for an even handed person, such as me?

Ground rules are a set of rules that apply specifically to a ball field that are not in the official playing rules e.g. a ball that hits a roof beam at Tropicana Field. A fair ball that bounces over the

fence is commonly called a ground-rule double. But that's not in the ground rules; it's in the official rules where it is simply called a two-base hit. Personally, I prefer the way "ground-rule" rolls off the tongue. A ground-rule double sounds as if it was struck harder than a two-base hit.

In all my years of announcing games, I cannot recall ever saying ground-rule triple. It's possible of course. That would happen when a player throws his glove or cap at a ball and touches it. Naturally you don't see that in professional games. It's rare even in amateur play.

The first time I saw that on Saipan was at Mt. Carmel ballfield in a 1980's softball game. The only other time was at Palacios Field during a youth baseball game. That's twice that I remember which spans three decades and a ton of games. But in neither case did the fielder successfully hit the ball. Which renders moot the question, "if the glove had touched the ball, would the umpires have called a three-base hit or ground rule triple?"

As a kid growing up practicing baseball practically every day, even if we only had a few boys, I remember throwing the glove and hitting the ball was quite an admirable skill, an accomplishment, tough to do. Of course that was never in real games, just kids fooling around, and usually too at the end of a long workout when there was no fence behind you and no other kids to help out and if

Fighters 'Battle Ready' for Gorilla Warfare

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Fighters for Gorilla Warfare "Battle Ready" vowed to exact punishment against their rivals during a media presentation held yesterday near the Japanese Tank memorial along Beach Road.

Heavyweight Charlz "The Predator" Aiken looked confident in his upcoming bout against Mike Davis in one of the undercards.

"I'm ready for him," he said.

Aiken, who outpointed Kelvin

"The Big Hit" Fital in the first Gorilla Warfare last August, holds a 7-2 win-loss record.

Davis, meanwhile, will be fighting for the first time on Saipan said he has been training hard for this fight.

"I've been working hard to be on top. I'm always going for the win," said Davis, who has a 4-3 record.

All of his fights were in Guam including a stint in the Pacific Xtreme Championships.

Fital, for his part, will be going up against Ed "Zeppe-lin" Carpenter from Chicago who holds a 4-0 record.

"I'm 100-percent ready now," Carpenter said.

See FIGHTERS on Page 38

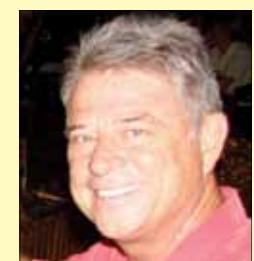


Mixed Martial Art fighters pose atop the Japanese Tank memorial along Beach Road during a press briefing for Saturday's Gorilla Warfare "Battle Ready" at the Saipan World Resort.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2



the ball got by you, that meant a long run.

I got to be pretty good at stopping the ball by throwing my glove at it. Which got me to thinking—what's so bad about that? It's an added athletic skill and another dimension to the game. At night I lay sleepless pondering questions like, "would my ability to throw my glove at the ball overcome my other deficiencies to enable me to play professional baseball? Did my chance at the bigs fail because somebody forgot to put that in the rules? Why is baseball the only game where the manager and coaches wear player uniforms, as if some fat old bald 60-year-olds are going to get on the playing field?"

I probably won't sleep again tonight.